Hilly Your with Prints Drana Jonathan Dunbels the prince hographs had identified Mrs part Rowles as the Roth appropri Wednesday in the Hotel for the 50th bithty of Lady Sarah Keshirk the prince who who go defaulted at a film for micre The Sun rewsperd reported that Mrs and the Bowley and then son had

were also at the both

King Hassan, Rabin meet in New York

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Morocco's King Hassan II and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met for an hour late Friday. discussing the Middle East peace process, bilateral relations and other topics, U.N. sources said. The king received Mr. Rabin at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan in one of the many mini-summits taking place on the sidelines of the United Nations' 50th anniversary celebrations. It was the third public meeting between the two leaders. Neither had announced the one-on-one meeting in advance. Israeli sources reported the king said he hopes that new steps could be taken in the near future towards normalising new steps could be taken in the near luture towards normanising relations between the two countries. The monarch couraged Mr. Rabin to pursue the Israeli-Arab peace process, notably pressing Israel to move more quickly and radically in the case of Palestinian and the countries of the case of Palestinian and the case of the case of the case of Palestinian and the case of the case of the case of Palestinian and the case of t about North Africa and the presidential election scheduled in Algeria next month. Mr. Rabin was also to meet in New York with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and discuss the Syrian

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصبر بالتجالزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية ،الراي،

Volume 19 Number 6052

King arrives

in New York

the U.N. in resolving interna-

tional disputes and the

U.N.'s activities in social ser-

vices, health and education.

The King is accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, His

Royal Highness Prince

Abdullah and His Royal

Highness Prince Talal Ben

Mohammad, the King's milit-

Israel to grant

asylum to Iragis

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel

has decided to grant asylum

to most of a group of 31 Iraqi

defectors who snuk across its

heavily guarded borders in

recent years, an official said

Saturday. Police spokesman

Eric Bar-Chen said an unspe-

cified number of the Iragis,

who have been jailed since

arrival, will be released in

coming days and allowed to

live and work in Israel. Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin de-

cided on the move as "a

humanitarian gesture" after

concluding most of them did

not pose a security risk, Mr. Bar-Chen said. "They

escaped from the Iraqi reg-

ime for political reasons, but

there are a few about whom

there are some doubts, and

they will not be released."

The exact number to be re-

leased will be decided Sunday

by Police Minister Moshe

Shahal and state attorney

Iraq minister dies

ROME (AP) — Iraq's agriculture minister died of a

heart attack in Rome where

he was attending a U.N. con

in Rome hotel

ary secretary.

AMMAN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1995, JUMADA ULA 28, 1416

Linguistics - A Critical Study."

Blind student completes dissertation

AMMAN (Petra) - His Royal Highness Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the Regent, said

Saturday that higher education institutions in Jordan were

keen to give all citizens their proper role in the develop-

ment process. After attending a masters dissertation by a

blind student at the Arabic Language Academy, Prince Ra'd

said this occasion "shows the need to give the blind a

suitable role in serving their society." He commended the

achievement by the student, Basma Rawashdeh, who was granted the masters degree after she completed her disser-

tation on "Linguistic Issues in Ben Fares' Book on

Saudi police hunt AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday arrived in New York to attend the 50th for mosque bomber anniversary celebrations of the United Nations. The King will deliver an address in bizarre incident at the celebrations outlining Jordan's views on the role of

Motive for blast that killed six described as personal vendetta

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi police searched Saturday for the perpetrator of a bomb attack on a crowded village mosque that killed six people and wounded 101 others during the weekly prayers, blaming a personal dispute.

"The authorities have begun inquiries to find the culprits of this abrominable which took place on crime." Friday in Quba village, some 500 kilometres southwest of Riyadh, the Interior Ministry

A senior government official said the authorities had identified the attacker, who was still on the run.

"The person who launched the bomb attack on the worshippers is known to the authorities. He lives in the village," Hussein Al Zalfa, gov-ernor of Bishah region, which includes Quba, told AFP.

Mr. Zalfa, however, refused to name the suspect or identify any motive for the attack but insisted that the

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

debate Monday on a con-

troversial bill calling for the

U.S. embassy to be moved to

occupied Jerusalem from Tel

Aviv, a spokesman for Sen-

- The U.S. Senate will open

bombing was not linked to any political campaign. The ministry said "meticu-

lous research was under way on the spot in search for clues to establish the type of the explosive and the person who committed it (the crime).' One well-placed Gulf

source, familiar with the region where the attack happened, said some kind of personal vendetta would not be out of place in Bishah, a tribal area where fends are common.

But he added: "Violent vendetta is not strange, but the nature of the incident itself is alien to the Saudi society.

Some Gulf-based diplomats said it was hard to reconcile an indiscriminate attack in a crowded public place with the idea of settling personal grievance.

"It will probably take some time before establishing the real motives, but why would somebody choose a mosque packed by worshippers on a

U.S. Senate to begin debate

on Jerusalem bill tomorrow

31, 1999.

ber 1996 with a view to open-

ing the new embassy by May

on the floor on Monday,".

Dole spokesman Jeremy

Wallison confirmed Friday.

scribed the bill as "a bad

idea" that could exacerbate

difficulties in negotiations be-

President Bill Clinton was

reported ready to veto the

The White House has de-

"It's coming up for debate

Friday to settle personal disagreements?" said one diplo-

The attack took place at midday as about 500 people attended prayers but the authorities in Saudi Arabia who are traditionally tightlipped on domestic news kept a black-out until early the next day.

Riyadh was also rife with speculation of a family vendetta or of a wronged worker taking his revenge on an employer. Saudi opposition groups have also targetted mosques in the past.

In November 1979, a group of Sunni Muslim militants seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Islam's holiest city. At the end of a two-week battle, more than 200 people were killed and around 100 captured insurgents were later beheaded.

Two explosions rocked Mecca during the 1989 annual pilgrimage to Mecca,

(Continued on page 7)

ter the debate was to start,

Mr. Dole announced it was

tions... and negotiations are

parties (and) representatives

of the president," Mr. Dole

He said he believed an

agreement would be reached

by Monday but that if there

were no agreement he would

bring the bill to the floor

(Continued on page 7)

going on now with interested

"We have been in negotia-

off until Monday.

mortality mounts in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) - Child mortality in Iraq from dis-cases that could be related to U.N. sanctions has risen again this year, by 1.5 per cent to an average of 4,475 deaths a month, the Iraqi government says.

But the rate of increase in the number of children under five who die of malnutrition, diarrhoea and acute respira tory infection is lower than the population growth rate for the first time since the Gulf crisis in 1990 and 1991.

The statistics, from the Iraoi Ministry of Health, appear in a report prepared by the U.N. Children's Fund (UN-ICEF) and made available to Reuters on Saturday.

They show that child mortality from these diseases rose sharply in the first two years of sanctions, from 593 deaths a month in 1989 to 3,911 in 1992, then less rapidly to 4,147 in 1993, 4,409 in 1994 and 4,475 between January and July 1995.

By extrapolation, and taking account of population growth at 2.7 per cent a year. the Iraqi government could argue that over the five-year period the trade embargo has contributed directly or indirectly to the death of about 180,000 children.

Under the sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, Iraq does not export enough oil to buy all the food and medicines it needs. Drinking water and sewerage systems have suffered from a shortage of parts.

Iraq could sell oil worth \$1 billion every three months but Iraq has rejected the U.N. supervision attached to the offer.

Regent reviews summit facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the Regent, Saturday inspected preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which opens on Oct. 29 and expressed deep satisfaction with the progress of work.

The Regent visited the Ministry of Interior, the Public Security Department (PSD), the Grand Palace Hotel and Palace of Culture at the Al Hussein Youth

Praising the efforts of the concerned authorities involved in preparations, Prince Ra'd said he was certain that the finishing touches will 'e put well before the convening of the conference. Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad outlined

His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the Regent, on Saturday is briefed by officials on preparations for the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa economic summit (Petra photo)

his office's measures and the services it will be offering the delegates and also briefed the Regent on the ministry's preparations to deal with any emergency during the winter

Major General Fawaz Ben Zein Ben Abdullah, the PSD acting director, briefed the Regent on plans to organise traffic during the three-day

conference and to ensure security for the delegates. The Regent also called at the main operations room at

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

(Continued on page 7)

Infant **RJ** to fly home 14 Jordanians stranded aboard expellee ship By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter after they were denied entry The Countess M arrived

with agency dispatches

AMMAN - Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, will fly home 14 Jordanian nationals expelled by Libya and stranded aboard a ferry anchored off the port of Larnaca in Cyprus, the govern-ment said Saturday.

A government statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Interior Minister Salameh Hammad had contacted the honorary consul of Jordan in Cyprus to make the necessary arrange-ments for the flight, paid for by the government.

The move came upon the instructions of His Majesty King Hussein, the statement

More than 650 people, the bulk of them Palestinians carrying Syrian-issued travel documents, are stuck aboard the car-ferry, Countess M,

to Syria on Monday. Cyprus also refused them entry.

Subsequently, Syria changed its mind and agreed to take in all those carrying Syrian documents — about 590 people. Among the rest are also Syrians, who are also expected to be taken home by Syria, and nationals of several other countries. Fourteen of them are Jordanian

Jordan has said it would welcome back all Jordanian passport holders and would also facilitate the travel of Palestinians to the oc territories through the King-dom's territory if they held

Israeli entry permits. Meanwhile, a Syrian boat which was supposed to have reached Larnaca to pick up the stranded Palestinians was delayed by engine trouble, international agencies reported.

off Cyprus - filled with Palestinian workers, who had lost their jobs in Libya, and their families — after it was originally turned back by the authorities at the Syrian port of Latakia on Monday. It left Tripoli on Oct. 13

and has remained at Larnaca since Tuesday amid intense negotiations between the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and Syrian and Cypnot authorities aimed at solving the problem.

The Syrian passenger boat coming to take those with the erwork. 150-seat Fayza Express, left Latakia late Friday but engine problems reduced its speed and delayed its arrival in Lamaca.

(Continued on page 7)

Syria tries to make a point, but fails, page 2

Bill Clinton has warned bill, which would require unchanged. moving the embassy by May Democratic leader Thomas would deal a major blow to Daschle earlier quoted Secretary of State Warren ongoing Middle East peace The bill was due to be debated by the Senate on

Friday. But several hours af-

tween Israel and Syria.

ference, Iraqi officials said Saturday. Khaled Abdul Mumim Rashid, 50, reportedate majority leader Bob Dole ly a close friend of Iraqi The bipartisan bill, sponleader Saddam Hussem, was sored primarily by Mr. Dole, leading his country's delegasets a timetable for relocating tion to the U.N. Food and the embassy, a move the Agriculture Organisation's administration of President (FAO) conference. Iraqi embassy spokesman in Amman Adel Ibrahim said he died of a heart attack. The Iraqi embassy in Rome de-The measure calls for clined to give any details. groundbreaking by Decem-Police said Rashid was dead on the floor of his hotel room Bosnian foes swap prisoners in the Cavalieri Hilton, a plush botel on the outskirts of the capital, when officers ar-

Suha Arafat wants another child

CAIRO (AFP) — Suha Ara-fat, the wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, hopes to give a new brother or sisterto her newborn daughter Zahwa, she said in an inter-Wiew with the Egyptian daily Al Ahram published on Saturday. "If God wills, I hope Zahwa will have a brother or a sister. But I don't want a dozen kids, because raising children is a huge responsibility," Arafat said. She said she wanted the difference between her children's ages to

SARAJEVO (R) — A local truce was reported to be holding in volatile northwest Bosnia on Saturday and the warring parties exchanged prisoners in further signs of progress towards ending 31/2 years of war.

Fighting has continued in the northwest since a Bosniawide ceasefire came into force nine days ago. The truce was aimed at calming the situation on the ground in preparation for peace talks scheduled to open in the United States on Oct. 31.

the northwest yesterday, just a few explosions," United Miriam Sohacki said.

tion and willingness to make

the ceasefire work."

"No significant military actions were detected by us in Nations spokeswoman Major Referring to a meeting at northwest frontlines on Friday at which Serb. Croat and Muslim commanders agreed to respect the ceasefire, spokesman Lieutenant Col-onel Chris Vernon said: "The general atmosphere of these meetings was one of coopera-

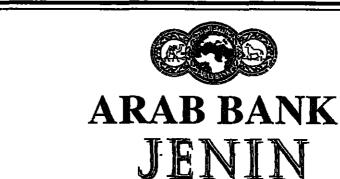
In a further sign of progress towards peace, the Bosnian government and its separatist Serb foes exchanged 20 prisoners on Saturday, including two Turkish jurnalists and three foreign aid workers held by the

Among those freed in the exchange, the first since the ceasefire came into effect on Oct. 12, was Sarajevo poet Vladimir Srebov, a Serb critic of the war who was seized by Serb soldiers when he ventured outside the city on a freelance peace mission in A delegate from the Inter-

national Committee of the Red Cross, which helpedorganise the swap, said it was not known how many others were being held. "There's going to be a lot of these over the next few weeks - both prisoners and bodies."

Another sign of a return to normality in Sarajevo after 42 months of siege was the reopening of the city's main outdoor market, scene of two

(Continued on page 7)



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Peres favours basing major infrastructure in Jordan

The Jerusalem Post

FOREIGN MINISTER Shimon Peres, elaborating on his vision of Israel at peace, said Thursday he envisions much of the country's infrastructure being located outside its borders.

Addressing business leaders in preparation for the Amman economic confertuce, Mr. Peres said Israel's shrinking size makes every Piece of land highly valuable. He advocated placing much of the country's infrastrucof the parket relative including the planned development of a carel made in neighbouring Jordan, which is five times bigger than Israel.

> "Suddenly, any piece of land becomes vitally impor-tant to this country," he said.

"Money comes and goes. Land goes and it's no longer

Mr. Peres said that in contrast to his government, Jordan has aiready expressed interest in having many of the public works projects being planned constructed within the Hashemite Kingdom.

"I am not excited that roads will criss-cross Israel from other countries," he said. "We have enough road accidents. I don't see any potential in this."

As a result, Mr. Peres said, the government should aim to keep as much basic infrastructure as possible outside the borders of Israel. This would include airports, oil terminals, railroad lines, and

major highways. The foreign minister said he supports the construction of a joint Eilat-Aqaba airport, which would be situated on both sides of the Israeli-Jordanian border. He said

this is one of the best projects being presented at the Amman conference. Mr. Peres said he is not concerned that should war erupt with the Arab states. Israel would be left without

basic infrastructure. "If war comes we will deal with it," he said. "Where will the lion come - from Jordan, Egypt? We

have peace with them." "We are leading Israel down the route of peace," Mr. Peres added. "Nobody will slow down the pace." Israel, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Egypt have agreed on at least seven joint de-

velopment projects in such

areas as tourism and linking

Mr. Peres said Eilat, Agaba, and Taba are to become a free tourist area, in which visitors can move freely from one country to another without border for-

He was speaking at a symposium in preparation for the Amman conference. He added that Israeli officials have already discussed the plan with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

However, in a meeting between Tourism Minister Uzi Baram and Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Baram cited the planned "Red Sea rivieria" which is to include Israel. Jordan and Egypt — as one of two projects in which the Jordanians have not cooper-

Mr. Baram said the Jorda-

nians have not contributed their share of the planning costs, some \$5 million. Prince Hassan replied that

next week the foreign and tourism ministers of the three countries would meet to reach an agreement as to how to carry out the project. Mr. Baram also said the

Jordanians have not been cooperating on "the lowest park in the world" on both sides of the border at the Dead Sea. because they said Jordan does not have sufficient hotel accommodation in the area. On this issue, Prince Hassan replied that a joint Israeli-Jordanian team would begin planning the park, access to it, and its attractions. At the same time, he said, the Jordanians would begin building four hotels at the Dead Sea.

Home

2 Home & Middle East News

Hamas: No Cairo talks with PLO

AMMAN (Agencies) — The signal a rift between Hamas' militant movement Hamas on Saturday denied it had received any formal offer to attend reconciliation talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Cairo.

A Hamas official in Gaza, who requested anonymity, said on Friday talks would be beld in Cairo.

But Jordan-based Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh said Hamas, the PLO's main rival in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, would "study the invitation and clarify its stand" once it receives the

The contradictory statements appeared to further leaders on how to deal with the PLO.

"Once the movement is notified formally, it will clarify its stand on the dialogue with the Palestinian (National) Authority (PNA) and when it starts, it will start from zero, as there are no agreements, or draft agreements between the two," he told Reuters.

'Hamas' programme vis-avis that of the PNA will be put to the negotiating table... the movement will discuss every detail and hopes that the PNA will be ready for

Mr. Tayeb Abdul Rahim,

Settler roads destroy secretary-general of the PNA, said Friday Hamas had Palestinian farmland agreed to the talks, at Egypt's invitation, but had not set a

Hamas, which remains implacably opposed to Israel, has put the PLO in a critical situation in the past year by launching suicide bombs that killed scores of Israelis. PLO courts have sentenced Hamas members to long prison terms in Gaza

But recently, both sides have been making noises ab-Bank town of Halhoul performed Friday prayers at vineyards marked for desout reconciliation. The PLO has recently steptruction.

ped up contacts with Hamas ahead of Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian towns.

Israeli bulldozers were up-rooting centuries-old olive trees for the bypass roads. 'This road will destroy some of the best farmland in Halhoul. This will damage our economy and make many farmers landless," said Halboul Mayor Mohammad Mashal during the Friday

HALHOUL, Occupied West

Bank (R) - Bulldozers hasti-

ly building roads for Jewish

settlers before the Israeli

army moves away from West

Bank Palestinian population

centres are eating up some of the best Arab farmland,

Some 300 Palestinian far-

ners from the southern West

In the northern West

Bank, Palestinians said

Palestinians said.

protest. He said Israeli military authorities notified him of the decision to build a road for

the tiny settlement of Karme Tsur and immediately went down to some of the town's choicest fields and marked 11.5 kilometres of them for

protest

attack

tear-gas

KUWAIT (Agencies)

Kuwait University students staged a sit-in Saturday to

protest a tear-gas attack,

which had disrupted victory

celebrations by liberals who

won student union elections.

Hundreds of students skip-

ped classes and gathered at

the college of administrative

sciences, where the tear-gas

canister exploded Wednes-

day causing eye irritations

and respiratory problems for

A 17-year-old old youth

has been arrested on suspi-

cion of the tear-gas attack, a

newspaper reported.
The Interior Ministry de-

clined to comment on the

report in the English-

A ministry spokesman said

investigations were con-

tinuing and witnesses were

being questioned on the inci-

dent, which authorities have

said threatened the Gulf

country's internal security.

Students were rushed to hospitals on Wednesday

night after unidentified

youths threw a tear-gas bomb

or bombs at a campus meet-

ing of the secular "Democra-

The meeting was celebrat-ing the group's victory for the

fourth straight year in student

union elections at the uni-

versity's faculty of adminis-

The university's influential

pro-Muslim Brotherhood

group, 'E'itilafiya," took

second place. Sunni and

Shi'ite Muslim traditionalist

groups and an independent

group all have a presence

The administrative scien-

ces faculty is one of the few

not controlled by Islamists.

Islamist groups have control-

led Kuwait University's

umbrella students' union, and most of the affiliated

faculty unions, for more than

The Democratic Centre in a statement attacked the tear-

gas incident as a "savage

attack on the student move-

ment and national unity as a

on Thursday the attack "des-

tabilises internal security and

has a severe effect on the

democratic process enjoyed

and peaceful. Students be-

longing to liberal group car-ried placards that said: "No

for terrorism" "The shadow

of extremism is looming over

our society."
Islamic students took part in the sit-in Saturday. They

denied it had carried out the

attack, which they blamed on

a "fifth column" seeking to

damage Kuwait's national

unity.
"No Islamist and no

thing like this.. accusations

cannot be thrown around

without proof," said Naseebah Al Sumait, a 20-

vear-old accounting student

who wore a flowing long

dress and a head scarf in

keeping with the Islamic

Muslim fundamentalists

and their supporters occupy

dress code.

Saturday's sit-in was brief

by university students."

The Interior Ministry said

a decade.

within the university.

tic Centre" group.

trative sciences.

language Arab Times.

clearing. The Israeli army said it could not comment on the report and housing and building ministry officials were not available.

Under the self-rule agreement signed in Washington last month, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed that Israel would build a network of bypass roads to enable the 140,000 Jewish settlers to reach Israel without going through Arab villages and towns.

Israeli bulldozers are racing to build the roads across the West Bank linking the nearly 140 Jewish settlements with Israel in time for a redeployment schedule set to start on Oct. 25 in Jenin and end in Hebron in March 1995. The Jenin bypass road was

completed this week.

Last month, he began

just a writer, spinning a tale for his audience of about 600. "I feel that for more than, six years now I have been trapped in a bad story, a badly written, badly managed story... So I thought it was

Mr. Rushdie has lived in hiding since his book "The Satanic Verses" was declared blasphemous in 1989 by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah of Iran. Khomeini ordered the death of Mr. Rushdie and

The 48-year-old writer would sometimes appear unannounced at events, includ"The Moor's Last

"I want to thank all of you because I have felt enormous warmth and support from the people of Norway. And after everything that has happened here I feel particularly delighted to come to this coun-

almost feels that "jeg er nordmann (I am Norwe-gian)," said Mr. Rushdie,

NEWS IN BRIEF Kuwait University Rebel soldiers to return to Yemen students

ADEN (AP) - More than 100 rebel soldiers who fled to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during last year's civil war will be returning home over the next few days, a government-run newspaper reported Saturday. The Arabic-language October 14 daily said the soldiers were southerners who fled when northern troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh crushed secessionists in the south in the two-month war that ended in July 1994. The newspaper did not disclose its sources, but said the soldiers had decided to return because they had come to realise the error of their ways. Several hundred rebel soldiers and officers have returned home from self-imposed exile in several Arab countries over the past few months, the paper

Syrians find ancient cemetery

DAMASCUS (AP) - Municipal workers laying new telephone lines in the central Syrian city of Homs have uncovered an ancient cemetry, the Al Baath daily reported Friday. The government-run newspaper said the cemetry contained five stone tombs dating back to 317-337 A.D. Al Banth said that the tombs, discovered at a depth of two metres in the city centre, contained golden ornaments belonging to "Prince Constantine," who lived during that period. It did not elaborate. But Syria at that time was under Roman rule.

Pollard group claims Israeli financing

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli government, which had been at pains to disassociate itself from the Jonathan Pollard spy scandal, secretly funded a grass-roots group that lobbied for his release, the committee's chairman said Friday. "The time has come to say it," said Amnon Dror, chairman of the Public Committee for Jonathan Pollard, "For years we have received our funds from private and public sources and from the Israeli government. And I must say it has been very generous." Mr. Dror estimated that since the committee was formed nine years ago, the government has provided about \$3 million. The money was channelled through a government body which he would not name. He said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir, both approved the payments. A spokesman for Mr. Rabin, Yarden Vatikai, said he did not know if the report was true and could not check it immediately because the prime minister and many of his staff members were currently in the United States. The television said the prime minister's bureau refused to comment, but sources close to the prime minister had confirmed the facts.

Hijacker to go on trial 11 years late

TEHRAN (AFP) - An Iranian arrested on charges of hijacking a passenger plane to Bahrain and Egypt 11 years ago is to stand trial in a revolutionary court, newspapers said Saturday. Gholamreza Vabidju is accused of having seized the plane while on a domestic flight in 1984 "with the help of a former military official," the head of Tehran revolutionary courts, Ghulamhussein Rahbarpur, told the papers. The authorities said last month that the suspect was arrested on Sept. 20 as he tried to cross into Turkey. He is to go on trial soon, the papers said without giving a date. After the hijacking, he travelled from Egypt to France where he was granted asylum and support from the Iranian opposition, police said. He allegedly returned to Iran several months ago under a pseudonym.

iraqis convicted of smuggling refugees

STOCKHOLM (AP) - Three men, two of them Iraqi natives, were convicted Friday of smuggling hundreds of refugees across the Baltic into Sweden in 1993 and 1994. They ran an operation that capitalised on the collapse of the Soviet bloc to ferry people from the Middle East and Asia through former Soviet republics into Europe, said the court in Gotland, an eastern Swedish island. "They had a brutal business and a pure mafia operation. This had nothing to do with idealism," Prosecutor Kiell Lillieholm told the Swedish news agency TT. They smugglers brought about 400 refugees in all kinds of boats into Sweden, the court said, TT reported. They charged roughly 3,000 kronor (\$440) for each adult refugee and about half for children. The three were convicted of violating Swedish immigration law and each face up to two years in jail. Their names were not disclosed under standard Swedish media practice. They were identified only as two Iragis and another man of unknown origin.

Human Rights group accepts Turkish complaint

STRASBOURG (AFP) — The European Human Rights Commission Friday accepted a complaint against the Turkish government laid by the owners and editors of a Turkish newspaper that was forced to quit publication. The daily Ozgar Gundem was hit by bomb attacks and legal action, and its journalists were murdered or disappeared before it gave up in 1994 after two years of publication. The paper's owners submitted a long list of incidents blamed on the Turkish authorities, culminating in the destruction of its three main offices by bombs. As well as the murders and disappearances, journalists and other staff were also subjected to death threats, fines and confiscations of property. For Ankara, government officials said that Ozgar Gundem was a propaganda organ for the banned separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), and the state was justified in restricting freedom of expression in the interests of national security and territorial integrity. If the commission cannot achieve an amicable settlement in the case it will issue an opinion on whether Turkey has breached the European Human Rights Convention and could refer it to the human

Arafat, Orthodox community at odds with Deodoros I

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yasser Arafat, has boycotted a ceremony in which the head of the Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem, Patriarch Deodoros I, presented peace prizes to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres because the patriarch did not plan to present a similar prize to the PLO leader during the same ceremony in Jerusalem as agreed ear-

Bashir Abu Hatab, director of Mr. Arafat's office, told Agence France Presse (AFP) that the patriarch had agreed to hand the prize to Mr. Arafat's representative Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim at the same ceremony but changed his mind upon Israel's request and announced that the award to Mr. Arafat will be handed separately after the Rabin and Peres ceremony.

However, a spokesman for the patriarch said the prize will be handed to Mr. Arafat

Patriarch Deodoros Γs decision to present the Israeli leaders with the peace prize, described to be the supreme awards of the Jerusalem patriarchate, drew angry reaction from members of the Arab Orthodox community in the Kingdom who accused the patriarch of selling or leasing the Arab Orthodox community's property to

Fakhri Kawar, a prominent Jordanian writer and columnist and a former Parliament member, said that the patriarch had sold the land on which the Israeli parliament (the Knesset) was built.

Describing the patriarch's prize to the Israeli leaders as a reward for their arbitrary actions in the occupied Arab lands and in Lebanon, Mr. Kawar, who is also secretary general of the Arab Writers Federation, said that the patriarch's behaviour "clearly reflects his failure to live up to and serve the aspirations of the Orthodox community in Palestine and Jordan."

Mr. Kawar urged all the Christian and religious organisations in Palestione and Jordan to stage what he called an "Arab Orthodox inwhenever that is convenient tifada" and oust the Greek

leadership of the Arab church and substitute it with an Arab leadership.

Another Orthodox community member who originally comes from Jerusalem accused the patriarch of involving himself in temporal rather than spiritual matters and of abusing his authority as leader of the local church by presenting the prizes to the İsraeli leaders.

Michael Sindaha said that in his capacity as leader of the church the patriarch has squandered the rights of the church and its property.

He said the patriarch has presented peace awards to the Israelis "who have not restored peace to the region but continue to seize Arab and Orthodox-owned property like the St. John Hotel near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Mar Elias church land located between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the St. Georges Church in Jerusalem, which was demolished by the Israeli authorities, and continue to deny the Palestinian Arab members of the Orthodox community along with other Arabs, their request to return to their homeland in Pales-

Rushdie struggles to win back normal life

OSLO (AP) — For an hour on Friday, Salman Rushdie escaped from what he called "the bad story" of his almost seven years in hiding and was

time for a good story," he said in his first announced appearance outside Britain since 1989.

anyone connected with the

ing several in Scandinavia.

announcing his appearances publicly in advance, with two in Britain and the third in Oslo to promote his new book,

Sigh."
The British-Indian writer briefly shared the stage with William Nygaard, who was shot and severely wounded in Oslo three years ago, probably because he published the Norwegian-language edition of "The Satanic Verses" in

"Let me put it this way, it

Syria tries to make a point, but fails badly

From Michael Jansen in Nicosia

SYRIA HAS managed to put itself more in the wrong, on the local level with Cypriot authorities, the Palestinians and the Arabs, than Libya over the 660 "boat people" who remained stranded on a ferry off the southern Cypriot coast on Saturday.

The saga began on Monday when the ship Countess M, docked at Latakia but the passengers were turned back by Syrian immigration officials who did not even examine their papers. The feeling among Arab diplomats in Nicosia is that Damascus had issued a blanket instruction to the port authorities to deny entry to all passengers coming from Libva.

This command would have been issued on presumption that such passengers would be Palestinians expelled in disorderly fashion by the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in accordance with his September decision to force all Palestinians to leave his country in order to demonstrate to the world that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had not provided

these people with a homeland to which they could However, the passengers

aboard the Countess M were not all Palestinians, though the majority were; 82 were Syrians carrying Syrian passports and there were 14 Jordanians and 10 Lebanese and several other Arabs who normally do not need a visa to enter Syria. Although they were leaving Libya they were doing so in the normal fashion and were not being deported. They all had documents which would ordinarily entitle them free entry to Syria. The ship's captain (and the Palestinian embassy in Tripoli) said prior permission had been given by the Syrian authorities at Latakia to dock at the port and discharge all the passengers. Those without Syrian papers, Favez Younis of the Palestinian embassy told the Jordan Times, had consulted the Syrian embassy at Tripoli and been told "no problem."

In spite of all these facts, the passengers were compelled to reboard the ship which then sailed to the nearby port of Larnaca in Cyprus, where it is reg-istered. The ship has remained in place at anchor-

age since Tuesday afternoon with food, medicines and fresh water being supplied by the Cypriot authorities. "Blind obedience" to a blanket order is the only explanation for the Syrian decision, Mr. Younis asserted.

But this decision has complicated the whole Syrian response to this problem. On Wednesday the Syrian charge d'affaires in Nicosia stated that the Syrian passengers and Palestinians holding Syrian travel documents, 590 persons, would be accepted by Syria. A small Syrian ship was due at Larnaca on Friday to collect about half but this was postponed till Saturday and, because of engine trouble on the high seas, till Sunday.

ANALYSIS

The most sensible thing for Latakia, or Damascus, to do would have been to ask the captain of the Countess M to sail back to Latakia and discharge its passengers. But whoever, in Latakia or Damascus, took the blanket decision or applied it to the passengers of the Countess M was not to be criticised or countered or forced to change his mind and called to account for the mistake. Although decision-makers in countries where there is little or no accountability often take wrong turnings. this is rare in Syria where most decisions are slow in coming because of careful, discreet consideration. This is why Damascus has developed a reputation for political astuteness.

Palestinian sources say that Syria has adopted the line of banning deportees from Libya to drive home the point made by Colonel Qadhafi that the peace process has not given the Palestinians a homeland and to make the point that the PLO should not have signed a separate deal with Israel, in violation of understandings with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, that there should be cooperation and coordination in the negotiations. On this issue, the Syrians have a point, but, as Palestinian sources contend, the deed is done and it is too late for tetribution, particularly if the retribution is blind and harms the country seeking redress — in this case Syria - more than it harms its

target — the PLO. The real damage Syria's

refusal to accept the passengers of the Countess M has been to the ideals of "Arabism" and "Arab brotherhood," ideals which Damascus claims, with some reason, to be upholding. For the port authorities in Latakia refused entry to their own nationals as well as a host of Arabs bearing valid documents who should, without question, have been welcomed by Syria — Algerians, Moroccans, Tunisians, Lebanese and Jordanians.

The only reason why Syria has escaped international censure over the episode is that attention has been diverted to Libya for its policy of deporting up to a million "illegal" African aliens now living and work-International Labour Organisation has led the outery against Libya, characterising its decision as a poten-tial "catastrophe" for the African countries from which these people come. About half a million hail from Sudan, 300,000 from Chad and 250,000 from Mali. Their travel in crossing the desert to their homelands will be far more dramatic and riveting than the drama at the Countess M's anchorage off Larnaca.

ing in the country. The

19 seats in the 50-member Kuwaiti parliament. Although they have lost most of their battles for the implementation of Islamic law in the small state, they still enjoy widespread support.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

	LWOOLD THE 1410
	14:00 The Flintstones
	14:30 Joshua Jones
-	
1	14:45 Family Playhouse
1	15:00 Scientific Eye
	15:30 Pugwall's Summer
	16:00 ! Love Lucy
	16:30 Tarazan
-	17:00
	Children's Programme — Cocotte
1	Mimute
1	
1	17:30 Serie - Fruits Et Legumes
	18:09 Cocument
	19:00 News in French
	19:15
ì	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
i	19:30 News Headlines
	19:35 Nurses
1	28:00 Cinema, Cinema
1	20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
	21:10 Heartbcat
1	21:45 Doc. — Futures
	22:00 News in English
i	22:25 Counterstrike
i	23-10 Cossidu

10:30 Keeping Up Appearance

PRA	YER TUMES
04:22	Fair
05:40	
11:20	Dhuhr
14:31	'Asr
17:01	Maghreb
18-18	*icha

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. De la Safle Church Tcl. 661757 Terrasuncta Church Tcl: 622366 Church of the Amunication Tcl. Anglican Church Tcl. 652826 775261. St. Ephratm Church Tel. 771751. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in

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	In Agaba, it will be fine with

Tel. 810740 les of God Church, Tel. an Catholic Church Tel. an Orthodox Church Tel. cal Lutheran Church Tel: Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 29, Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent. **NIGHT DUTY**

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Al Salam pharmacy	848 485 301 912 336 055 672 730 945
Yacoub pharmacy 644	945 660 672

Dr. Ali Al Omari Alquds pharmacy **EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre 6371	11 .
Civil Desence Department 6611	
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	41
Civil Defence Emergency 1	99
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 6377	m
Fire Brigade 6171	ΩÍ
Blood Bank7751	21
Highway Police	
Traffic Police	
Table Couries December 420	77U 771
Public Security Department 630	321
Hotel Complaints 6058	20
Price Complaints 6611	100
Water and Sewerage	=
Complaints 8974	167
Amman Municipality	
Complaints787	111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	<i>[</i> 2]
- Overseas Calls Ult.	230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs 6231	101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661	101
Jordan Television 773	111
Radio Jordan 774	
Water Authority 680	

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 **Electric Power** 636381 HOSPITALS

AMMAN: -
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn
644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.
642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Maihas, J. Ammag 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shracisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhaireen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Chieco Alia Hoenital DUZ40/90
Amal Hospital 607155 .
ZAROA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital
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Ibn Sina Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Greek Cathotic Hospital . [bn A] Nafees Hospital . FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1)

AIRPORT

18:55 . 19:85 .	Jeddah (I Lamaca (I Dhahran, Riyadh (I
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99-20 (KJ)	21:45 Singapore, Jakaro
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(2-49 GF)	13:36 Doha
12:40 Moscow (GF)	15:85 Moscow
15:15 Rome, Damascus (AZ)	20:25
17533 Cuiro (MC)	20:25 Cairo
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collapsed burying the men under dirt and bricks in 14 1 1 1 Company Story Campa me in the case it will issue Wadi Sagra, police and Civil Defence Department has browned the European ad control to the man (CDD) officials said. The two workers, an Egyptian and a Jordanian 11 (A) 12 (A) 13 (A) 13 (A) 13 (A) 13 (A)

wall when it collapsed. They vanished under the mbble and dust," an eye-

FILM

Art Gallery, Pirst Cir-

"Count Dracula," at

were sitting and working

beside the 20 x 6-metre

The witness said there were other workers in the area but that none of them was injured.

Her Majesty Queen Noor meets with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali at the

United Nations headquarters in New York where they launched the International

International Leadership Academy

She added that it will

bring together and nurture

ties of friendship, under-standing and solidarity

among future leaders, who

will work on promoting

peace, stability and further-

ing the endeavours of the U.N., it said.

ment, the Queen praised former Prime Minister

Abdul Salam Majali as the

initiator of this venture

"whose vision and persis-

tence have brought it to

The University of Jordan

facilities and premises to

establish the temporary

headquarters of the acade-

my, whose first annual ses-

sion will begin next sum-

The session will include

workshops and interactive

discussions between distin-

gnished keynote speakers

and 50 participants — "fel-

lows" selected from 5 con-

tinents — on peace and

security, leadership and

Wall collapses killing construction worker

witness told the Jordan

dodated the use of its

fruition."

According to the state-

Queen, Boutros Ghali launch

Leadership Academy (AFP photo)

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her

Majesty Queen Noor and

Secretary General of the

United Nations Boutros

Ghali Friday launched the

United Nations University

International Leadership

Academy (UNU/ILA) at the U.N. headquarters in

New York on the occasion

of the U.N.'s 50th anniver-

sary, a Royal Court state-

The UNU/ILA, which

will be based in Amman,

will be the first global lead-

ership training facility as

well as the first U.N. insti-

established in the Middle

In her remarks, Queen

Noor, the chairperson of the

UNU/ILA's Advisory Com-

mittee, described the acade-

my as "a unique leadership

initiative to promote and

reinforce tolerance, cooper-

ation, equitable human

development and the reso-

lution of conflicts through

negotiation, dialogue and

justice," the statement said.

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One person

was killed and another was

seriously injured Saturday

when a supporting wall of a

building under construction

East, the statement said.

ment said.

A large crowd watched as CDD rescue teams located the two victims and pulled them from under the rubble after nearly an hour.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times Saturday that there was not enough support in the foundation and that is why the wall col-

It is the contractors fault for not being more careful in choosing the place and testing the kind of soil before building," the official said adding that this is not the first time such an accident occurs.

civil society, sustainable.

development, global eco-

nomics, culture and reli-

gion; the programme will

also include one week of

. Attending the ceremony

with Queen Noor were

Rector of the United

Nations University (UNU)-

Heiter de Souza, Advisor to

the Rector Dr. Majali, Vice

President of the UNU/ILA

and Japan's Permanent

Representative to the U.N.

Owada, Queen Noor's Edu-

cation Advisor Munther

masti and Uneen Noot's

Liaison Officer for

UNU/ILA Basma Lawzi,

according to the statement.

Earlier that day the Queen

chaired a meeting of the

Advisory Committee at the

UNU's North American

Office to discuss the plans

for the establishment of the

academy. The day's events

concluded with a working

lunch at Ambassador

Owada's residence, the

statement said.

Hisashi

Ambassador

travel in the region.

The names of the victims were not immediately available.

According to confirmed sources, police are questioning several people in charge of the sight including the engineer and the contractor. Police declined to release any further details except to say they were investigating the inci-



Civil Defence Department rescue workers carry one of two victims of a construction site accident to an ambulance in the Wadi Sagra area. The other victim was killed when a wall collapsed burying the two workers underneath (CDD photo)

Jordan releases first compact disc on tourism information ahead of MENA

By Cathy King Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first compact disc containing detailed tourist information, photographs and videos on Jordan has just been completed in time for next week's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit.

The brain-child of Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein, work on the project began a year ago with the intention of creating a portable, comprehensive guide to Jordan to assist in the promotion of Jordan as a tourist destina-

"It was an obvious need and no one seemed to have the capability to develop a project of this kind," said Princess Zein in a recent interview.

"The country's natural resources are few, so we have to make the most out of tourism. But we want it to be done with class and not for it to destroy Jordan," she said, adding, "we don't want to bite the hand that feeds us."

Having seen computergenerated, tourism-geared programmes elsewhere, Princess Zein initiated the project and worked with the Royal Court Computer Department to produce the

"The project could not have been achieved without the assistance of His Majesty, who bought all the (CD) production machines and touch-tone screens, or without the guys in the computer department," Princess Zein told the Jordan Times.

Other equipment necessary for the project was economy.

already available in the In that respect, said

The touch-tone screens were purchased especially for the summit, but the programme was created more specifically for mousedirected computers.

The programme is databased and includes a multimedia function which allows for audio-visual options such as photographs, videos and music. Similar to a guide-book,

the programme is divided sections: Hashemites; history; general facts and information; getting to Jordan; listings of embassies, airlines, hotels and restaurants: the environment; commerce and investment; system of government; in addition to information on cities and

The section on cities and sites is illustrated with photographs and/or videos.

A "quick tour" section groups together places of interest, which may be reached in a single day, and are exhibited in a series of fast-moving videos and accompanying music.

"Most of the data was collected from within the office, but we also received help and information from various institutions throughout the Kingdom," noted Princess Zein, who added that because of the nature of the programme it can be tailor-made, or adapted, to a specific occasion, and the data can be updated regularly.

This initial includes the text of the newly passed Investment Law, descriptions of the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry and detailed information on the

dan compact disc

sion was "tailor-made" for the MENA summit; such information would be of little interest to the general tourist, she added. In addition, the pro-

Princess Zein, the first ver-

gramme can be modified for whatever "summit or festival that Jordan may be participating in worldwide," and because it is recorded on CD, it is very portable, Princess Zein explained. The CD is available free

of charge, said the Princess, adding that it was developed with "little cost incurred" and will also be distributed to all of Jordan's cubassies and the Jordan Information Bureaus in

Washington and London, as was another of the preparawell as to all airlines flying in and out of the Kingdom. The Princess stressed that producing the CD was

boost tourism to the coun-Earlier this year, the Ministry of Tourism tendered a project to the private sector to develop a multi-media based programme also

intended as an effort to help

"The ministry knew all along that we were doing this project, but still went ahead with the tender. It seems pointless to have duplicated it," Princess Zein.

about Jordan.

The project tendered by the Ministry of Tourism

Scenes from Jordan illustrate one side of the Guide to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jor-

tions for MENA, but rather than being available on CD, the programme is accessed through a touch-tone screen. Princess Zein recognises

that Jordan has much to offer a tourist, but few know of its potential as a holiday destination. The CD will allow for the dissemination of such information easily.

"Even if someone wants it for personal interest, they are free to take it. It would be to our benefit if it is then shown to friends and family," she said. The CD will be available

upon request at the various conference venues.

ICARDA to hold regional symposium

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), will organise a symposium on Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems in the Dry Areas of West Asia and North Africa, in Amman from Nov. 6-8, an ICARDA

statement said Saturday.
The symposium will review and discuss research results obtained by scientists from West Asia and North Africa, working on the improvement of dryland production systems, the

statement said.

Both basic and applied research will be addressed ana multidisciplinary research efforts will be emphasised, it said. According to ICARDA, the symposium will cover the following areas:

 Improvement of barley and forage crops produc-2. Improvement of small

ruminant production and management 3. Marginal lands and

rangelands improvement. 4. Technology assessment and transfer.

Around one hundred scientists from twelve countries are expected to present and discuss about 70 scientific papers during the three days of the symposium, the statement said.

The countries expected to participate in the conference are: Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, Iran, Turkey, Cyprus and Egypt in addition to several international organisations and universities, it said.

bilingual map of capital AMMAN (Petra) --- As part of its contribution to

Amman prepares new

the preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, the Greater Amman Municipality has prepared a map of Amman in English and Arabic which will be distributed to the participants at the summit for their information and convenience while touring the city, according to Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi.

Addressing a press gathering at his office Saturday the mayor said that the map, which was prepared in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, details various districts with street names as well as the locations of embassies, ministries, archaeological and tourist

The map, the first of its. kind to be produced of Amman, illustrates the 20 different districts, their main roads and side streets, said Dr. Abbadi.

He added that the 50,000 copies of the Arabic language maps and the 20,000 English versions will be distributed immediately to tourist and travel offices, hotels and taxi drivers.

The mayor said the map was very important for Amman which is expected to witness a major tourism

During the press gathering the mayor noted that the municipality has almost completed sprucing up the capital, adding that the municipality will during the coming conference organise a number of entertainment programmes, including Jordanian dabkeh song and dance performances in several areas of the capital

Envoys brief on MENA preparations

Also Saturday, Umayyah Toukan, rapporteur of the preparatory committee for the MENA conference, briefed representatives of Arab and foreign embassies on the arrangements and preparations taken so far for the coming event.

Dr. Toukan along with other officials in charge of the preparations outlined the facilities for the press delegations that will be covering the meetings.

Brother arrested for killing sister in latest 'crime of honour'

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 19-year-old Tafileh woman Friday was shot and killed by her older brother for alleged adultery in Al Rewid town, according to confirmed sources.

The sources said that Maysoun Mohammad was shot three times in abdomen by her brother Ali, 30, who surrendered to police immediately following the incident.

The sources said that Ali was urged by his family to kill his sister after the family supected that their daughter was having an affair with a man.

The source added that the victim was shot at 11:00 p.m. while she was at home.

Maysoun, who was in coma and was bleeding heavily, was rushed to Prince Zaid Hospital, died shortly after arriving to the hospital.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Saturday confirmed the incident but refused to release any details.

Maysonn became the seventh woman reportedly killed in the Kingdom in a "crime of honour" this year. Also Friday, in north Azraq, police were investi-

gating the death of a 60-

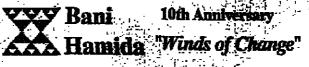
year-old man who's deteriorating body was discovered by the authorities on Friday, confirmed sources said. According to the source, the victim, identified as Said Abdul Ruhman, was reported missing for more than 10 days.

Police Saturday declined to reveal any information and said that they were investigating the incident. Meanwhile, the Criminal

Court Saturday sentenced-Mustafa Deeb, 65, to five years with hard labour for molesting Amani M., 11, last June in his shop in Ruseifa.

Court documents said that the victim went to the accused's shop to buy some groceries.

Deeb was sleeping at the time, and when he saw the child he asked her to go behind the counter and be molested her, and asked her not to tell anyone, the court documents said. The child went home and told her family about the incident, and the man was arrested by the authorities the same day. According to the document, in his confession Deeb told the police that he was dreaming of a woman and when he woke up he saw the child in front of him and could not help but Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor



Enjoy the Bani Hamida Women fine achieved works o rugs o cushions o runners o wallhangings Annual Fall Exhibition

26 October - 5 November 10:00 am - 9:00 pm Sponsorship & Location:

Jerusalem Insurance Company Shmeisani - Abdul Hamid Sharaf St. Opposite Air France Tel. 658696

In cooperation with: Bdour & Showa Gallery Crystal Excellence Cireen house Jordan Modern House Noor Engineering Span Marketing (Sanderson)

Other Signer (Terminal Agency)

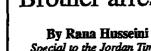
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EXHIBITIONS Company of the Compan *Paintings by Janet Venn-Brown at Alia $\mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{H}^{1}}, \mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{Cond}^{\mathrm{H}^{1}}}$



4World News

Chechenya peace talks to resume after 2-week break

MOSCOW (AFP) - Peace Saturday that an artillery the pro-Russian Chechen including 350 mercenaries talks between Moscow and Chechen separatists will resume in the Chechen capital Grozny next Tuesday after a two-week suspension, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, head of the Russian delegation said Saturday. He was quoted by the

. ...

ITAR-TASS news agency. The talks were suspended on Oct. 9 after Anatoly Romanov, the commander of the Russian forces in the tiny Muslim Cancasus republic, was seriously injured in an assassination attempt and dozens of Chechens died in subsequent air raids on villages. Russia has denied responsibility for the bombings.

Mr. Mikhailov, who is Russian nationalities minister, and Oleg Lobov, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy for Chechenya, arrived in Grozny Friday.

VIENNA (R) — Far-right leader Joerg Haider told

Austrians Friday immi-

grants should be re-united

with their families back

home, while conservatives

warned of economic belt-

tightening after December's

Mr. Haider described him-

self as Austria's "patron

saint" against further immi-

gration — a platform he adopted during elections a

year ago when he won near-

fication for immigrants —

but in the immigrant's home

country and not in Austria,"

he told an election cam-

Polls show Mr. Haider's

Freedom Party drawing

level with the traditional

giants of Austrian politics

Democrats (SPOE) and the

Conservative People's Party

(OEVP) whose coalition

fell apart last week after a

Launching his party's manifesto, the OEVP leader, Vice Chancellor

Wolfgang Schuessel, paint-

ed a gloomy picture of

Austria's future unless it

cocoon in favour of eco-

budget row.

nomic reform.

- the left-wing Social

paign news conference.

We support family reuni-

ly a quarter of votes.

general election.

Russian troops confirmed federal organisations and

attack the previous night on the village of Roshni-Chu, southwest of Grozny, blamed by the Chechens on the Russians — killed three people and injured two.

An air raid on the village on Oct. 8 killed 28 people and injured another 60, Chechen sources claimed. The following day the

Russian high command acknowledged that there had been a bombing raid but denied responsibility for it. atmosphere in Grozny became more tense during the night with the arrival of the Russian dele-

gation. At least six Russian military helicopters flew over the capital. The Russian Interfax News Agency reported Russian military sources as saying that firing could be heard in parts of the city centre where buildings belonging to Russian

Austrian far right party says

immigrants should go home

to put a nice gloss on things.

We are going to speak the

truth," he told a news con-

He said Austria's eight

million people had to face

stark choices but the coun-

try could solve its economic

deficit problem "if we all

can face up to the unvar-

nished truth and if we all

with Social Democrat

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky

in a protracted dispute on

how to cut the huge 1996

state budget deficit. Mr.

Schuessel favoured sharp

reductions in public spend-

ing while Mr. Vrantizky

The two parties have gov-

erned together for the past

decade, presenting little radical choice to voters at

election time, but their tacit

ears to de ovei

Mr. Vranitzky said his for-

mer partner was on an "ego

trip" and vowed that the

necessary reforms and

structural changes will be

carried out with social jus-

tice." He pledged to protect

society's weak, old and

Mr. Haider has branded

long vowed to smash

Austria's post-World War II

DOOF.

shed its pricey welfare both parties as liars and has

"We are no longer willing "grand coalition" political

argued for tax rises.

Mr. Schuessel fell out

tighten our belts a little."

ference.

government are situated.

Negotiations on implementing a July 30 accord on disarmament had been advancing painfully slowly even before they were suspended.

The agreement _ was designed to end bitter fighting in Chechenya since Russian troops marched into the Caucasus republic in December to quell a three-year-old independence drive. At least 30,000 people, most of them civilians, have died in the con-

Earlier Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev had said he had reason to believe that rebels in Chechenya were planning broad-scale military action, Interfax reported.

Gen. Grachev, who was speaking on Moscow Television, said these "illegal armed bands" now numbered around 6,000 people,

system which he describes

as putrid with corruption

In the last year's election,

Mr. Haider's party won 42

seats in the 183-member

parliament, making it the

most powerful far-right

party in the European Union. The SPOE and

OEVP both recorded their

worst showings since 1945.

As the election campaign

got under way Monday, two.

more letter bombs explod-

ed, injuring a Syrian-born

doctor and a 71-year-old

Police acknowledge they

are no closer to finding sus-

pected neo-Nazi extremists

believed to be behind a

series of letter bomb blasts.

Austria's army was

dragged into the fray Friday

when the Neue Kronen

Zeitung daily alleged links

between military intelli-

gence and a rightwing

Army chief of staff Karl

Majcen expressed outrage

at the allegations and said

accusations implicating the

military in the activities of

"Bajuwarischen Befreiung-

sarmee" (Bayarian Libera-

tion Army) were totally

extremist group.

refugee counsellor.

and nepotism.

from outside the former Soviet Union.

He said information reaching the Defence Ministry proved that mercenaries from Commonwealth Independent States were also joining the Chechen

forces, which were still

managing to acquire mili-

tary arms and equipment. "This gave reason to believe that the irreconcilables were preparing to launch wide-scale military actions," Interfax quoted Gen. Grachev as saying during the television discus-

He said that, while he supported peace talks with Chechen representatives he favoured the use of military force against rebels who continued to fire on Russian troops in the breakaway republic.

Grachev makes up with top-selling newspaper

MOSCOW (AP) — A top-selling Russian newspaper has made peace with Defence Minister Pavel Grachev whom it earlier accused of involvement in the bomb assassination of its reporter and corruption.

"Only the court can decide who is a thief and who is a murderer," Pavel Gusev, editor-in-chief of the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets, said on the Moscow Television chan-

A beaming Grachev, sitting across from Mr. Gusev, rolled up his eyes and gave a wide grin when the bearded editor told him the reason for the minister's libel suit against the newspaper was only "a little" twist of words.

The minister, in turn, retreated from his customary attacks on the media, saying that journalists were not to blame for the decline in army's prestige.

The scandal began a year ago when a Moskovsky Komsomolets investigative reporter, Dmitry Kholodov, died in a bomb blast at the newspaper's editorial offices. A female colleague of Kholodov was injured.

The newspaper said the 27-year-old reporter was killed for investigating military corruption, and accused Gen. Grachev and senior army brass. Gen. Grachev has blamed everyone from criminals to Kholodov himself.

The killing remains unsolved despite a wave of conjecture.

For instance, unnamed counter-intelligence agents have accused their rivals at GRU, the military intelligence, who themselves have pointed at foreign espionage services.

Russia's acting prosecutor general, Gaidanov, claims a breakthrough in the case, achieved with the help of U.S. and Israeli secret services, but hints that the main suspects were outside Russia and beyond investigators' reach for the

moment. Mr. Gusev said he was convinced that Gen. Grachev was innocent, although the trail led to the military establishment.

"I want to ask you to forgive me. A year ago I emotionally accused the defence minister of being linked to the killing of Dmitry Kholodov," Mr. Gusev said, according to the ITAR-TASS news

"We want it expanded," Mr. Khan said. "Nobody The rapprochement came in the midst of a trial in seeks a formal seat. There is Gen. Grachev's libel case no such thing as formally against the newspaper. seeking a membership."



Shuttle launched successfully on 7th try

(R) — Space shuttle Columbia finally blasted off Friday after six abortive anempts to begin its 16-day scientific research mission in the near weightless environment of space.

An hour before blast-off at 9:53 a.m. edt (1353 GMT), the launch was threatened by rain and lowlying clouds, but just three minutes after the first available blast-off time skies cleared and the shuttle was off with a thunderous roar.

NASA officials were in obvious good spirits after the blast-off. The launch team really did an ontstanding job today," said Kennedy Space Centre Launch Director Jim Harrington.

By early afternoon, the seven astronauts were acti- a.m.(1045 GMT) on Nov. 5. vating the microgravity laboratory on board and three astronauts on the graveyard shift were preparing to go to

NASA officials had looked grim since Sept. 28, when Columbia was first set to blast off. The shuttle had tied its own record with six delayed flights, four caused by mechanical prob-

lems and two by weather. NASA officials said they felt no pressure to launch the shuttle Friday to prevent a record-setting seventh delay. The six delays have cost more than \$2 million,

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla NASA officials said a week

The seven astronauts will use a \$101-million laboratory on board to conduct experiments that NASA scientists say will lead to development of better semiconductors, drugs, firefighting techniques and foods for use in space.

Columbia's liftoff cleared the way for a Nov. 11 launch of Atlantis on a highprofile mission to link with the Russian space station Mir. Atlantis was first set to blast off on Nov. 1 but Columbia's delays pushed it back by more than a week.

On board Columbia are two veteran and five rookie including astronauts. Madrid-born Michael Lopez-Alegria. Columbia is set to return at 6:45

the U.S. Microgravity Laboratory on the shuttle is ideal for many experiments because gravity on Earth can mask the behaviour of scientific phenomena under study, NASA said.

Along with the high-tech equipments, 10 potato plants will be part of a study on starch in space. Scientist Raymond Bula said starch produced by potatoes could be a source of energy on space missions but there are signs that they do not accumulate as much starch in

space as on Earth.

Soyuz.

Russian, German take walk in space

Meanwhile a Russian cosmonaut and his German counterpart went outside the Mir space station Friday for a five-hour spacewalk to mount scientific equipment on a station module. Sergei Avdeyev and

Thomas Reiter left the spacecraft at 2:55 Moscow time (1155 GMT), and spent 5 hours and 16 minutes in open space, the ITAR-TASS news agency They placed a pack of

European scientific equipment on the Spektr module and replaced cassettes on a Russian-Swiss designed to study the isotope content of interstellar matter.

Mission Commander Yuri Gidzenko controlled the station and maintained a radio link with the two, ITAR-TASS said.

Avdeyev, Reiter and Gidzenko are taking part in a mission designed to train Europeans for work on the future international space station Alpha.

The four-month mission has been extended by more than a month because of a shortage of funds to build the rocket booster for the spacecraft taking up a replacement crew.

Russian Border Forces

powered icebreaker.

Commander

tion on the spot.

Thursday night.

or more colleagues ieft him there after he became stuck, and did not return.

Britons face 'obe-

sity explosion'

Stuck up burglar

creates a stink ALENCON, France (AFP) _A comple discovered the body of a burglar stuck an their chimney after cotic-

ing "a strange smell" nine months after a mysterious failed break-in, police said Tuesday The couple did

not immediately connect

the smell with a shoe found

in front of their fireplace in

July 1993, at their second

home in Saint-Aubert-Sur-

Ome, western France, It

was only when they came

to have their chimney

cleaned the following

April that they found the

cause of the stink, idean-

fied as burglar Karim

Tuesday said they were

shelving the case, after

failing to determine how

he came to be there. The

main theory was that one

Benfrid.

LONDON (AFP) Britain faces an "obesity explosion" by the start of the next century mainly because of insufficient exercise, the Health Ministry warned. 'The main reason for the increase in obesity is likely to be because people are less physically active rather than because they are eating more," said the report entitled Nutrition And Physical Activity. if eating habits and exercise patterns do not change, some 18 per cent of British men and 24 per cent of women will be considered obese in 2005, against 13 per cent and 16 per cent respectively today, the report said.

German professor finds true face of Shakespeare -

BONN (R) — A German professor said she had proved a death mask of William Shakespeare was genuine, giving the world its first accurate portrait of the playwright and indicating he may have died of eye cancer. Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel, a professor of English literature at Mainz University, said forensic tests on the 17th century plaster of Paris mask in a castle south of Frankfurt matched it closely to portraits of the bard. "I feel marvellous. it's very exciting," said Prof. Hammerschmidt-Hummel, whose discovery was part of 10 years of research into artistic representations of Shakespeare.

U.K. spy HQ left out in the cold

Suu K

meetings

London (R) — The building that housed Britain's MI5 counter-intelligence service, whose operatives struggled in the cold war to catch Communist spies, is to be knocked down to make way for a modern p office block. Number One Curzon Street in the fashionable Mayfair district has been bought from the property firm development securities. British media reported the selling price

Former U.S. House press aide

WASHINGTON (R) -- A

former press secretary to two Republican congressmen has been arrested on bank robbery charges, the Justice Department said Thursday. FBI agents Wednesday arrested Thomas Springer, 46, at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, Mr. Springer, who had worked as press secretary for representatives Michael Forbes, a New York Republican, and Toby Roth, a Wisconsin Republican is charged with robbing a bank in Vienna, Virginia, another

agency said his first deputy was in charge of the opera-

Nikolayev cut short an official visit to the United States to coordinate the search. ITAR-TASS news The helicopter, operated British government by by the Russian Arctic Border Force, last made contact while flying over an island in the Kara Sea in the was £50 million (\$78 mildirection of Sredny Island

held in bank heist

Washington suburb, cu Oct. 18.

U.N. birthday party turns New York upside down

UNITED NATIONS (R) — have an extra 6 1/2 hours Helmut Kohl is sending his The United Nations is set to celebrate its 50th anniversary this weekend with a diplomatic extravaganza that is turning New York inside out.

Kings, presidents and prime ministers from more than 150 member states are converging on the city, turning it into the world's diplomatic and political capital. The celebrations come at

a time when the United. Nations is experiencing the worst financial crisis since it was formed after the World War II, owed \$3.7 billion by members for its regular budget and peacekeeping.
Of the 15 countries that

pay more than 80 per cent of the budget, the United States owes the most, \$1.4 billion, followed by Russia with about \$500,000 and the Ukraine with about \$238,000.

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is hosting gala events for the leaders Saturday before they begin their speeches the next day. Each address is supposed to last only five minutes, which would be a record in brevity for any of the lead-

But if everyone speaks only two minutes longer, Assembly President Freitas Do Amaral said, "we would Council.

worth of speeches."

Guests President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin to His majesty king Hussein, The kings of Morocco and Swaziland, the prime ministers of China, Britain, France and Japan and the two captains

regent of tiny San Marino. Cuban President Fidel Castro is also coming but both Mr. Giuliani and Mr. Clinton have excluded him from their respective dinners for the world lead-

But he will not be lonely. Cuba's mission to the United Nation is deluged with invitations from every conceivable group, includ-ing Catholic leaders and business excutives, and thousands of requests for interviews from the press. "You just would not believe

it," one envoy told Reuters. Not coming to New York by their own choice are the heads of state of Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Iran, countries either subject to U.N. sanctions or with rocky relations with

the United States, or both. The only European country whose leader appears to have snubbed the event is Germany, despite Bonn's quest for a seat on the 15nation U.N. Security Chancellor

minister, Klaus foreign Kinkel

Much of the political action will take place beyond the confines of the cavernous U.N. General Assembly hall, Mr. Clinton has separate

meetings scheduled with Mr. Yeltsin and China's Jiang Zemin. French President Jacques Chirac is due to confer with Algerian President Liamine Zeroual against the background of a bombing campaign in France by Algerian Islamic extremists who threaten even worse if the meeting is

British Prime Minister John Major and Argentine President Carlos Menem are expected to hold the highest-level encounter between leaders of their countries since they went to war over the Falkland Islands in 1982.

The gathering is the biggest get-together in diplomatic history, eclipsing the 15th General. Assembly session in 1960, which entered U.N. folklore mainly due to the the shoebanging antics of then Soviet leader Nikita

Khrushchev. Back then, the United Nations had about 100 members, compared with 185 today, and security was much more relaxed.

Russian helicopter survivors found MOSCOW (R) — Rescue copter which took off from

teams searching for a Russian military helicopter missing in the arctic with 18 people on board found 13 survivors and four bodies Saturday, the Emergencies Ministry said.

A spokeswoman said still to be unaccounted for.

eight of the survivors were injured. One of those aboard when the craft went missing Thursday appeared The spokeswoman said the survivors and their tents had been spotted on Bolshevik Island by a heli-

NEW DELHI (R) — India

wants to join the United

Nations Security Council as

a permanent member and is

actively campaigning to expand the 15-member

Ministry's official spokes-

"We feel that given our

size and all that we merit a

place," Arif Khan told

Reuters in response to a

report that Prime Minister

P.V. Narasimha Rao would

formally seek India's mem-

bership when he addresses

the General Assembly

Foreign

body, the

Tuesday.

man said Saturday.

first to a military base and then to the town of Vorkuta. The rescue teams were out of contact for the moment. The MI-26 helicopter disappeared inside the Arctic

the icebreaker Sovyetsky

She said it would take

several hours to evacuate

the survivors and the dead,

Circle, carrying a crew of six and 12 border guards.

Border forces launched a search and rescue mission using three planes, three helicopters and a nuclear-India eyes permanent U.N. council seat

India wants to join the Security Council because of the role it has played to achieve the objectives of the United Nations, Mr. Khan said:

India has been actively seeking to join the five permanent members of the Security Council - the United States, China, Russia, Britain and France - through subtle lobbying centred on its military support for the international organisation.

Indian soldiers have been part of recent U.N. peacekeeping operations in Somalia, Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Rao made an unusual nationwide address on television last year to mark the join," Mr. Khan said,

beginning of the U.N.'s 50th anniversary celebrations, peaking next week in New York.

"Negotiations are on to expand the Council," Mr. Khan said. "Then there will be negotiations to determine which are the countries (which will join it)." He said Foreign Minister

Pranab Mukherjee spoke strongly for an expansion of the council when he addressed the General Assembly last month.

"Negotiations on the number of seats is not complete. But we have expressed a clear desire to

"safe houses" dotted around

At least 25 people died, including Black Tiger suicide bombers, and 32 were

The Tigers, who in May

hacked and shot to death 42

Sinhalese villagers in

Kallarawa in the east, were

feared ready to stage more

suicide attacks in a bid to

stall an army offensive in

the rebel-held north, securi-

ty forces said Friday night.

Military sources said an aviation fuel shortage could

affect air support for a

major push by some 10,000

soldiers against the rebels in

their Jaffna peninsula stronghold which began

Military analysts have

Tuesday.

wounded in the violence.

Tamil rebels massacre

66 in Sri Lanka villages

the city.

shortly afterwards by unidentified gunmen.

Scores of air force, army

and police personnel cor-doned off marshland near

the Orugodawatte oil depot.

searching for LTTE cadres

believed at large after

Black smoke billowed

over eastern Colombo for a

second day Saturday as fires

at Orugodawatte and

Kolonawwa continued to

burn. About 90,000 tonnes

of crude oil, 40,000 tonnes

of diesel and 15,000 tonnes

of kerosene, including avia-

tion fuel, went up in flames,

Crime Detective Bureau

Lionel Gunatillake said six

LTTE members had been

arrested in connection with

Superintendent

Friday's attacks.

police said.

Senior

World News creates a stink LNCON, France (App) A couple discovered the dy of a burglar stack up a strange smell nine after a mysterious suth after a mysterious hed break-in. Police said ecday The couple did immediately comed smell with a shoe found front of their fireplace in ly 1003, at their second me, western france h as only when they cane have then chimes cancel the following found the prit train they found the suse of the stink, ident-ed as burglar Kaim enfind. 21. Police uesday said they were solving the ones of selving the case, and allow to determine how came to be there. The min theory was that one f more colleagues left him here after he became tuck, and did not reum

Britons face 'obesity explosion

ONDON (AFP) Britain faces an "obesity spiesion" by the stan of he next century main secause of insufficient exercise, the Health Ministry warned. The main reason for the increase in obesity is likely to he because people in less physically wing rather than because the are cating more," said the report entitled Number And Physical Activity (cating habits and exercise patterns do not change some 18 per cent of Brigh men and 24 per cent of women will be considered obese in 2005, against ly per cert and to percent tespectively today, the report said

German professor finds true face of Shakespeare

TRUNN IV - A Genta professor and she & proceed a death maker William Shakespeare varemained from the wolf its tit it accurate portrate the playwright and inherme be may have deter eve emeet Hildegal Harmen's chinidi-Humael a professor of Englishber ature at Maniz Universit sand forensic tests on B 17th century plaster d Paras mask in a castle son of Frankfurt matched t clearly to portraits of it bard I (cel marvellet Ha very exeming. il:mmerchust Prof Hammel, whose discoun was part of to year? research may artistic tersentations of Shakespear

U.K. spy HQ left out in the cold

London (R) - The but inc that housed Britis MIS counter-intelligent service, whose operane struggled in the coldwar catch Communist spice to be knocked down B make way for a most office block Number OF Curron Street in the fast possible Mayfair distri has been hought from ficial anemara h property firm developmen securities British met reported the selling paragraph and 150 million (\$75 m n n

Former U.S. House press aid held in bank heid

WASHINGTON (R) tormer press secretary two Republican congre men has been arrested men has been arread a bank robbery charges of Justice Department Thursday. Thursday Thomas Springer. const his home in Silver Spire Maryland, A suburb Washington Mr. Spins who had worked is possible secretary for property Michael Fores New York Republican Toby Roth. it Wiston Republican, is chark
Republican, is hark
with robbing a mode
Vienna, Virginia, mode
Washington
Oct. 18 Oct 18

A policeman stands on alert outside the burning Kolannawa oil storage facility. Security was tightened in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo following the rebel attack that blew up the oil tank complex (AFP photo)

Gorbachev presents memoirs, says 'Russians need me'

MOSCOW (AP) - Mikhail Gorbachev presented his hefty new memoirs Friday with a comment many disgruntled Russians might take as a threat: he's still considering running for president

Unpopular with most Russians and almost forgotten on the political scene. the former Soviet leader said his decision is "very difficult" but he is prepared

"I feel Russians need me, and not only Russians," said Mr. Gorbachev, who is as popular abroad as he is reviled at home

"If the situation turns in such a way that I have to

Human Rights Committee

said Friday. Hong Kong citi-zens should still be protect-

ed by a key international

rights treaty after the territo.

ry reverted to China, even if

The expert-level commit-

should return next year to

explain exactly how China

intended to report to it on

application of the treaty

after the July 1, 1997, han-

Hong Kong human rights

campaigners welcomed the

decision. They feared that

China might refuse to report

to the committee monitoring implementation of the 1976

Covenant on Civil and

We'll all be back next year,"

said Christine Loh, a mem-

ber of Hong Kong's

"We're pleased with it.

Political Rights.

dover of Hong Kong.

Kong delegation that it conform

Beijing is not a party to it.

come back, that there is no in the former Soviet Union. choice for me, then I'll give Russia everything I have," 64-year-old Mr. Gorbachev said without elaborating. His remarks came at a

press conference at which his two-volume, 1,250-page memoirs, Life And Reforms, were released. The book already has been published in German; plans for an English edition are uncertain. It is his third book since leaving office but first full memoirs.

Mr. Gorbachev is widely hailed in the West for launching political changes that eventually led to the rival, "paranoid," saying he collapse of Communist rule expects him to cancel next

attended the two-day meet-

dent, Francisco Aguilar

But for most Russians, Mr. Gorbachev is the embodiment of the painful Soviet disintegration, the ensuing political chaos and economic hardships brought

by market reforms.

The ex-Kremlin leader and his wife, Raisa, autographed his book for about 200 invited guests and media. Just as in his days in power, be referred repeatedly to himself in the third person, as Gorbachev, and gave long-winded answers.

Mr. Gorbachev took the opportunity to call President Boris Yeltsin, his bitter rival, "paranoid," saying he June's presidential election. He also said he thinks democracy has fallen from favour in Russia

Mr. Gorbachev, who fought in vain to keep the Soviet Union intact before resigning in late 1991, also dismissed some Russians' sentiments for bringing the Soviet empire back as "a nostalgic game."

"Today we have to think of a new union, a new political reality," he said.

Besides writing his memoirs, Mr. Gorbachev has been busy traveling Russia and the West and heads the Gorbachev Fund think tank.

Hong Kong rights groups win victory at U.N. The committee also exam-

The Geneva hearing was given added urgency by-news this week that China's hand-picked advisers in Hong Kong were suggesting a dilution of a bill of tee told a joint British-Hong rights passed in 1991 to with the with the basic law," said International Covenant. The committee's presi-

> Urbina of Costa Rica, said the experts considered that obligations entered into by Britain on human rights regulations in Hong Kong devolved to China.

The committee understood this to be clearly agreed in the joint declaration between Britain and China which governs the handover, he said.

Other experts on the committee said they believed China should not only contime applying the covenant

€ GENEVA (R) — The U.N. Legislative Council who after 1997 but also maintain the newly-democratised Legislative Council, which it has said it will abolish, and the bill of rights itself.

"The bill of rights is clearly a law of Hong Kong implementing the covenant and I don't see that it could be taken to be incompatible Australian expert Elizabeth Evatt, referring to the legal framework for post-1997 Hong Kong.

"I would like to express the hope that the joint declaration will be upheld in every respect, in letter and spirit," she added. The committee asked the

British-Hong Kong delegation to send a written report in May next year on the progress in its talks with China on how the covenant would be applied after 1997. A further meeting in Geneva will be held in October 1996.

ined the human rights situation in Hong Kong under British rule and made several major criticisms.

It criticised the make-up of the Legislative Council. which, though now more democratic, is still composed largely of representa-tives of "functional constituencies" from such sectors as commerce, industry and tourism, effectively leaving two classes of voter. Britain also came under

attack for its treatment of Vietnamese boat people, especially at the Whitehead Detention Centre. The sharpest criticism came from German expert

Eckart Klein, who said Hong Kong's situation would not be so precarious if Britain had not waited until "the dusk of its rule" its interests." before deciding to promote U.S. President democracy and human

Clinton will meet his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin in New York Tuesday in what is expected to be a tough encounter during which the two will attempt to patch up deeply frayed relations.

clear in interviews with U.S. media organisations this month that the question

Their insistence derives

whether Taiwan interests

will be sacrificed. No, they won't," Ms. Galt said.

Kashmir lawyers on strike as capital shifts

COLOMBO (R) — Sri said. The two were caught getaway lorry found packed Colombo to divert the Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels in crossfire. with weapons near armed forces' attention shot and backed 66 villagers A third man was killed Kolonnawa and five in from the north. armed forces' attention

Analysts say the military operation looked like the opening phase of a final push to defeat the lite, who have long controlled the Jaffna peninsula and the city of the same name.

Security has been tightened at Colombo's already safety-conscious airport after the Tamil Tiger rebel attack on the two oil depots in the city, officials said Saturday.

"We have very tight security and now we have a little bit more," said Air Vice Marshal Maurice Fernando, executive director of operations at Sri Lanka's only international airport.

He said security forces were spending more time checking coaches and buses for suspected LTTE guerril-



Sri Lankan police round up Tamil suspects in the Sri Lankan Capital Colombo during a search operation to look for rebels involved in the attack on the oil storage depot blown up by the rebels Friday, witnesses depots (AFP photo)

Taiwan worries over U.S.-China summit

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan is of Taiwan is near the top of would hold out against "These are not formal concerned it may become a Beijing's summit agenda. Beijing's demands. sacrificial lamb for the Infuriated when "The big question is United States to repair relations with China at a summit next week, officials and commentators said Satur-

to death in the east and sparked a firefight in the

capital Saturday, diverting attention of the armed

forces from a northern push

against the guerrillas, the

military and witnesses said.

Infants were among 31

dead at the mixed

Sinhalese-Tamil village of

Most of those killed were

hacked to death by the

Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eelam (LTTE), a doctor at

Polonnaruwa Hospital told

Renters. Six other villagers

"Most had suffered sharp

injuries," the doctor said.

"Also there were some

Tamils among the dead who

In Mangalagama, in east-

em Ampara, the Tigers used

machetes and swords to kill

16-men, women and chil-

dren and wound five others,

a witness said from the hos-

The Tigers, fighting for a Tamil homeland in the east

and the north of majority

Sinhalese Sri Lanka, also attacked the village of

Padaviya, in the eastern

Welioya district, killing 19,

The attacks occurred

between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.

(2030 GMT and 2230 GMT

Friday). The villages lie in

the border area between government and ltte-con-

In the capital, two LTTE

cadres shot dead two civil-

ians near a Colombo oil

the military said.

trolled territory.

between

Poonalikamwa

Welikanda,

Polonnarmya

were wounded.

had been shot."

Batticaloa.

"We are afraid that we may be the lamb which is sacrificed," said a Taiwan government official who declined to be identified.

"When the two big powers sit down face to face, it is difficult for an absent smaller power to safeguard

Mr. Jiang has made it

Washington allowed Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui to make a private visit to the United States in June, China has repeatedly called for U.S. assurances that leading Taiwan officials will not be invited in future.

from Beijing's position, held since China's civil war ended in 1949, that Taiwan is a renegade province and its government is not entitled to international relations.

But Washington, which upgraded its relations with Taiwan last year to allow more high-level visits, has refused to bow to Beijing's demands.

Jennifer Galt, spokeswoman for the American Institute in Taiwan, the United States' highest representative office on the island, said Washington

But she added that since China's vehement criticism of Mr. Lee's trip, U.S. officials have used concessionary language which sug-

gests it will be harder for high-level visits such as Mr. Lee's to take place in the The Taiwan policy review September 1994,

Washington's first upgrading of policy with Taiwan since it switched diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing in 1979, sees more high-level visits approved on a "case-by-case" basis.

Since June, two more qualifying words — "rare" and "personal" — have been added informally to the "case-by-case" stipulation on bilateral visits, Ms.

reviews but they have been made in officials' statements," Ms. Galt said. A second Taiwan official

said that if it came to a conflict between U.S. Domestic interests and Taiwan policy at the summit, Mr. Clinton would give ground on Taiwan.

Among U.S. concerns is that China is not abiding by an agreement reached earlier this year to curtail widespread piracy of U.S. intellectual property.

Washington is also concerned over China's nuclear cooperation with Iran, to which it has said it may sell reactors.

The U.S. may not say in a public statement that it will curtail visits to Taiwan but we are concerned about deals that may be made in private," said the second Taiwan official.

Suu Kyi swept up in party meetings 3 months after release

six years of house arrest, Aung San Suu Kyi spent auch of her time in meditation, reading and quiet reflection. Since her release on July 10, her days have been a flurry of meetings with political allies and supporters.

Those who knew her well before 1989 say she is more spiritual now. She is also, understandably, guarded as she feels her way forward in relations with the anthorities.

So far, Burma's military rulers have allowed Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) col-

leagues a certain latitude. Visitors to her lakeside compound are photographed and their identiries checked, but there is no physical obstacle to such

contacts. The ruling junta has also apparently chosen to ignore the very political meetings which fill Aung San Suu Kyi's days, as well as the Frowds that continue to flock to her gate where she speaks to them at weekends on subjects ranging from their economic hardships to

politics and public morals. in an interview this week, she said the NLD was working hard to rebuild and reor-

RANGOON (AFP) — In gamise after five years of Asked if she thought the six years of house arrest, disarray. Although the party government had delayed the won general elections in 1990, the junta refused to hand over power and jailed key NLD leaders.

"I think, first, we've got to get the dialogue statted, and then we can think about other things," Aung San Sun Kyi told AFP.

Pouring tea in her sparse-ly-furnished sitting room, the woman who came to symbolise the pro-democracy movement acknowledged the path toward dialogue with the junta was not

"We've got to establish trust and find common ground," she said. "Initial stages of the dialogue would mainly be confidence building."

Implicit in her remarks was the understanding that real dialogue had not yet begun - although she refused, as she has steadfastly done for three months now, to discuss the state of contacts with the govern-

The NLD would issue an official statement "when the time is right," she said. Diplomats in regular contact with Aung San Sun Kyi since July were divided on whether that time might be approaching.

ongoing Constitutional Convention so that a dialogue might begin, she said: "It would be

nice if that were the case but I think that these are all speculations." Despite the latitude allowed by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), as the

junta is officially known. There were some indications of official impatience with her criticism of the government.

The latest came in disapproving if veiled references to her activites in a lengthy commentary published in the state-run press Thursday and Friday.

No one was mentioned by name, but readers were left in no doubt as to the target when Friday the commentator wrote that it was easy to criticise, but that "subversive" speech or ideas risked triggering "a rough course of actions" when they "pass the limit of tolerance."

Aung San Sun Kyi commented dismissively: "I pay of integrity."

no attention to these articles written under pseudonyms because I think this shows a lack of courage and a lack While choosing her words



Aung San Suu Kyi

carefully, she was sometimes sharply critical of the SLORC, which has ruled Burma since 1988.

She disputed suggestions of impressive economic progress recently in Burma, saying there was instead a boom in bribery and corruption." "I would have thought

not a bigger one, than the economic boom," she said. Dressed in an orange traditional blouse and patterned longyi, Aung San Sun Kyi again asked foreign investors to "please wait until the right time" before pouring money into Burma.

that was as big a boom, if

"I think once the process of democratisation has started would be the right time. and if (all) investors would take the same stand, then I democratisation would come that much quicker," she said.

SRINAGAR, India (R) -Lawyers in troubled Kashmir led a crippling strike Saturday to protest against the alleged killing by troops of a colleague as Indian officials began the annual ritual of shifting capitals.

In Srinagar, hotbed of a five-year-old anti-India rebellion, shops and offices were closed and most residents stayed indoors as part of a one-day protest by lawyers over the shooting of Ghulam Qadir Sailani Tuesday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Court High Association, which called the protest, said Mr. Sailani was killed by security forces. Newspapers said he was shot after troops retaliated against a rebel attack at a village on Srinagar's outskirts.

Police said the lawyer was killed by unidentified assailants.

The state has been directly ruled by New Delhi since Kashmiri separatists launched a violent campaign in 1990. Some 20,000

On Saturday, streets were mostly deserted except for security forces on patrol or stationed at bunkers throughout the heavily fortified city. Down a few deserted alleys, youngsters played cricket.

Police said there were no reports of violence during the strike.

Meanwhile, "The move-ment of the durbar", as locals call it, began with a convoy of about 100 government vehicles, carrying everything from paper clips to files, rolling out of the summer capital Srinagar towards warmer Jammu.

Jammu, 300 kilometres from Srinagar and the winter seat of power, will now take the reins of Jammu and Kashmir, mainly Hindu India's only Muslim majority province, for six months. The state's civil secretari-

at shut down for the winter Friday. The 3,500 officials were set to begin work in Iammu on Nov. 1.

With the government shift to Jammu, a three-month-

people have died in the vio-lence. long hostage crisis also seemed on the backburner seemed on the backburner as authorities waited for news of four Western

Now held for more than

100 days, Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert were on a trekking expedition in south Kashmir when they were kidnapped in early July.

The kidnappers, the previously unknown Al-Faran group, are demanding the release of 15 colleagues, including some foreigners. beld in Indian jails. India has declined to release the foreigners but says the Kashmiris could be released

under routine review. Al-Faran raised the stakes by killing a fifth hostage. Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostroe. A note found beside his decapitated body on Aug.13 threatened to kill the others unless the group's demands were met within

two days. The deadline passed without apparent harm to the

There has been no news about the four since the kidnappers cut off daily contact with intermediaries on Sept.

Indian officials say they are worried about the long gap but believe the hostages are alive and safe.

In the past week, authorities have denied reports in local media quoting witnesses from different villages as saying the tourists and their captors had been sighted. "There is no truth in these reports," a government spokesman said. Meanwhile an Indian offi-

cial raised hopes Saturday for the release of the four Western hostages kidnapped in kashmir, saying they were safe and would rejoin their families. D.D. Saklani, adviser to the governor of the troubled Himalayan province, was

quoted by United News of India (UNI) as saying that efforts were under way for an early release of the hostages.

But he did not say when he thought the three-monthold crisis would end.

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Threat works for now

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton's threat this week to veto any congressional action to transfer the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has apparently succeeded in postponing deliberations over Republican Senate majority leader Bob Dole's initiative concerning the move. Putting off a congressional decision for now, however, is not exactly equivalent to killing off the idea altogether. Given the strong bipartisan sentiment wthin the two chambers of the Congress in favour of appeasing the Jewish lobby in Washington, it would take much more than a veto threat by the president to thwart what would otherwise be a dangerous action by the American legislators.

That is why Israel and its supporters must be persuaded to give up the whole attempt pending on amicable resolution of the question of Jerusalem during the third and final state of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. And this is where Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should try to prevail on the over zealous supporters of his country in the U.S. Congress and elsewhere not to outherod Herod, especially at a time when any precipitous action on the Holy City could derail the entire Middle East peace process and undo what has been painstakingly achieved over the past four

The Arab countries which have signed peace treaties with Israel are likewise called upon to serve notice that they would not stand idle against all those who wish to unilaterally change the status of Jerusalem. for it is true that their ability to live up to their commitments towards regional peace would be severely curtailed if the future of the city is sealed before a satisfactory agreement on it is

There is nothing that could prevent countries from relocating their embassies to Jerusalem in the future as long as control over East Jerusalem is restored to the Arab side in accordance with international legitimacy.

We still believe and will continue to believe that past and current efforts by Israel to alter the status of Jerusalem are null and void in accordance with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. Thus any move by the U.S. legislators (or anybody else, for that matter) that would shake basic principles governing the Holy City could only make a final Arab-Israeli settlement that much more difficult, if not impossible, to reach.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour praised the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, for calling on the Arab countries to end their differences and help terminate the U.N. sanctions on Iraq. Mohammad Kawash said that the call from Sheikh Zayed drew a quick and favourable response from the emir of Bahrain, and hopefully, it will draw similar responses from other Arab leaders. Every one knows what it means to see the Arab leaders reconciled and their countries launching sincere brotherly relations, said the writer, who emphasised the need for a unified Arab front not only in ending a black era of misunderstanding but also in launching a new stage of sincere cooperation in all matters of national interest. It is regrettable that similar calls to that of Sheikh Zayed had been heard in the past but were not heeded because of inter-Arab disputes, he added. The writer said it is hoped that the fresh calls would not be disregarded because, he said, continued differences among the Arab states means continued draining of their resources and wealth, which should have been utilised in socio-economic

A WRITER in Al Ra'i attacked Jordanians who oppose normalisation with Israel as defeatist elements who try to cover up for their impotence through confrontation by declaring their outright rejection of the Amman summit meeting. Fahed Al Fanek said that these elements are suffering from an inferiority complex and lack of selfconfidence in their ability to deal with the coming challenge. The fact that the meeting is to be held in Amman and that the Jordanian delegation is the largest means that Jordan has the ability to steer the conference in such a way that it would favour its interests and those of the Arab Nation, said the writer. Singling out the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) and its president for adamantly refusing to see Jordanian doctors taking part in the coming event, the writer said that the JMA is depriving the medical com nity in Jordan of providing itself as one among the leading professionals in the Middle East. He said shunning international conferences that may help promote Jordan because Israel is attending them is tantamount to suicide.

Possible benefits of MENA summit

(MENA), which will convene in Amman next week. A legitimate question to ask is: What are we to expect from

At the outset, we should admit that the mere fact that this international conference will be held in our capital, Amman, is, in itself, a great benefit. For several days Jordan will be the focus of the media around the world. This is an invaluable chance to introduce Jordan to the world and to give favourable impressions which will have political, touristic and cultural consequences that can be lelt for many years to come.

The fact that Amman will be the media capital of the world for three full days is not all that is to be gained from the summit. Jordan is supposed to be an active participant in the conference. Jordan will enjoy a special status as the host country. His Majesty the King will deliver the opening speech, which will be heard in six continents around the globe. It is a rare chance to address the world and have all peoples listen to what we have to say. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will chair the conference, using his extensive experience in the activity of conferences, which will give him the chance to lead the conferences. ence and set the tone for its proceedings.

Hopefully, the participants will have the chance to know Jordan firsthand, some of them for the first time. They will

MANY QUESTIONS persist over the possible dividends of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit may succeed in attracting Arab and foreign investors on the medium and long-terms.

In fact, some dividends of the conference have already started to materialise. From the investment point of view, a contract was signed between the Aqaba Region Authority and an American company to build a touristic village in the southern shores of Aqaba, including a luxurious hotel at the cost of \$120 million. The construction of the project will begin within 180 days and will be the start-

ing point of the emerging Jordanian riviera at the Red Sea. Perhaps the most important benefit from an organisational point of view is the passage of the legal package, which includes the Income Tax Law, the Sales Tax Law, the Encouragement of Investments Law, the Labour Law, and very soon the Companies Law and the Customs Law. These radical reforms would not have been possible, at this remarkable speed, had it not been for the impending

If the new package of reformed economic laws did not attract many Arab and foreign investors, it will definitely tempt the hesitating Jordanian investor.

Around 90 per cent of the direct investments in Jordan is financed by the capital of Jordanians, residents and expatriates. Jordanian investors should always be our main target. A country is never built except by its own citizens. Others, seeing the successful results, will follow.

Tunis lashes out at Islamist phantom

By Roula Khalaf and James Whittington

businessman gets visibly nervous when the talk turns to politics. He admits the lack of freedom of expression is at times stifling, but "it is better this way," he says. "Otherwise they — the Islamists —

would take over." Yet in this island of stability between bloody Algeria and unpredictable Libya, there are no visible signs of Islamic fundamentalism.

Women are harassed for Tunisians now regularly go to mosques to pray. As one diplomat put it, more than three visits a week are treated as suspicious by the authorities.

Tunisia's Islamist Al Nahda movement, which gained popularity in the underground by President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, who threw thousands of its supporters in jail in the early 1990s.

Since then, the government has adopted a strategy of "preventive repression" aimed at people who are considered prone to Islamism. These include old friends and sympathisers and those who have helped the families of

jailed Islamists.

Since Tunisians no longer dare speak their minds, it has become difficult to gauge the strength of what remains of the Islamist movement. But by continuing to warn of Tunisians the only alternative to the present system would be an Islamist state, Mr. Ben Ali has managed to tighten his grip on power, perpetuating the virtual one-party rule the country has lived under independence in

Newspapers are rife with stories of religious extrem-

All opposition is being THE YOUNG Tunisian silenced in the process

neighbouring Algeria. No matter that Tunisia's Islamist leaders in exile say they denounce violence and domino theories of an Islamist Algeria spilling over into Tunisia are no longer regarded as credible.

Mr. Ben Ali has been a champion of economic liberalisation, his policies culminating this year in wearing the traditional the signing of a partner-headscarf. Fewer ship agreement with the European Union (EU) for the creation of a free trade zone. But the more he opens up economically, the more he seems to close down politically.

parties were happy to cooperate, purging their ranks of members who disagreed with this strategy. However, instead of building a secular opposirepressive measures have begun to reach the regime's old allies.

Even Tunisia's forthright women's associations, which were most vocal in their opposition to the Islamists, are DOM harassed for daring to ask for a semblance of political freedom.

While most of the middle classes are happy to accept the government's arguments and concentrate the threat, and convincing on making money, some segments of society are beginning to question it. After applying to start a new political party, Mustapha Ben Jaafer, who had been pushed out of one of the main opposition parties, was sacked suddenly from his position as chief of radiology at a Tunis hospital last month. The dismissal brought

ists' horror perpetuated in protests from the medical establishment.

The once friendly opposition, meanwhile, is starting to speak out. Earlier this month. Mohammad Mouadda, the leader of the Movement des Socialistes Democrates, the principal opposition party and until now a government ally, was arrested for making public an unusually harsh letter to the president attacking the ruling Rassemblement

Democratique (RCD). Democratic pluralism, as it exists today, serves only as a democratic decor offering a perverted image When the government of the choice of society we clamped down on the have made," wrote Mr. Islamists in 1991 and Mouadda. "This has the today and in the future an indifference on the part of the population to both politics and national activity. Violence and extremism, it must be noted, find tion, the government's favourable ground in such a climate.

Constitutionel

The official explanation for Mr. Mouadda's arrest was that he had dubious foreign contacts and received funds from a foreign government, said to be Libya.

"The arrest was a warning to the whole opposition that even the closest to the government among them are no longer safe, says a human rights monitor in Tunis.

Mr. Mouadda could no longer hold his tongue when successive promises of an opening up of the political system proved illusionary and the RCD carried almost all votes in municipal elections last March. This came after the opposition had ended up with only 19 seats in leg-islative elections in 1994 against 144 for the RCD.

The opposition accuses the government of falsifying election results."

It makes no sense to make a martyr of Mouadda," says a Western diplomat. "It is a bit mysterious that a country that does so many rational things can be so irrational at times.

It is also a risky time to be alienating political allies. Tunisia's partnership agreement with the EU anchors the economy in the European sphere but presents as many challenges as opportunities by opening up the Tunisian market to competitive European goods.

Tunisia's economic masters have ensured steady growth, mined in inflation and trimmed the budget deficit to a mere 2.4 per cent of gross domestic product. But unemployment is 15 per cent and businessmen warn that, as young people could lose their jobs.

More than that, few believe that the government's insecurity is justified. As one leading businessman puts it, if Tunisia held free elections today the RCD would win a comfortable majority. Opposition members say

they fear that by not allowing them to offer themselves as an alternative to the Islamists, the government is giving credence to the view that the opposition has to go underground. "It is our role to say that

we are a democratic alternative, that it does not have to be either the regime or the Islamists." says a member of the opposition. "The danger is that if a legal civil society is not allowed to flourish, radical groups will be able to regroup people and if Islamism is reborn, it will be of a more radical nature."

The Financial Times

Playing 'MENApoly'

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

THE UPCOMING Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA), which will be held in Amman on Oct. 29, is a three-day affair that may offer years of development opportunities to many participants, including Jordan. The prize is a possible four billion plus dollars of investment that may pour into Jordan from the entrepreneurs and governments of over 60 countries, as more than 900 private sector representatives, approximately 500 government officials. 173 speakers from 29 countries and 12 international organisations, and a 1000 journalists come to Jordan in a few days. The game is a mixture of cut-throat competition, tit-for-tat deals and counter deals, and savvy politico-economic

favoritism. Jordan's private sector has a list of proposals for investment in projects of which 69 are industrial, 17 agricultural, 10 related to the medical field, and 12 in the tourist sector. The total cost of these projects is \$1.2 billion. The Ministry of Planning, representing the public sector, has prepared 27 proposals for public sector investment programmes with a total worth of \$3 billion. Judging from the size of the funds demanded by each sector, the private sector will play a secondary role to the public sector in

Again, Jordan's public sector dominates the business scene which may be forgivable in this case because we are. after all, a developing nation that is in need of funds for infrastructure development. However, according to a well-respected group of economists that is comprised of Robert Lucas (this year's Nobel laupaying the principal plus interest later in the future from domestic tax revenues is equivalent to taxing the people now. In other words, when the government borrows money to finance its expenditures rather than taxing citizens to finance them, the public's present tax liability is reduced but its future tax liability is increased, unless of course we are forgiven our debts like the recent \$700 million debt cancellation by the U.S. (which is not likely to happen again in the next 10 years at least). Nevertheless, borrowing for projects that have high rates of return such as investments in telecommunications, railways that connect the north and south of Jordan, etc., can be justified because these projects have a rate of return that easily exceeds 25 per

ticipating in the conference are investment starved and can be viewed as our competitors. Consider Israel and Egypt for example. Israel. with a population of 5 million people, a \$74 billion GDP (second in the Middle East only to Saudi Arabia and Iran, respectively) and a 92 per cent literacy rate among its Jewish population. has an array of products that range from diamonds to electronics to fruits. Egypt, on the other hand, has 69 million people, a GDP of \$41.2 billion, a literacy rate of 44 per cent, and products that consist of petrochemicals, agricultural products, and raw materials. Both countries have large trade deficits; i.e., they import more than they export. Jordan, on the other hand, has a population of 4 million people, a GDP of \$5.7 billion, a literacy rate of 71 per cent and a list of products that consist mainly of primary products. Jordan's trade deficit is more severe in relative terms than those of the other two. However, its economy is undergoing major restructuring and the outlook can be very optimistic, especially in the ser-

Many of the countries par-

"Many of the countries participating in the conference are investment starved and can be viewed as our competitors."

vices sector. Furthermore,

our labour force boasts of a

higher literacy rate than that

of Egypt and most of the

other countries in the region, except for the Gulf states. and Jordan's cost of living is well below that of Israel. Our political system is among the most stable in the region and our leadership is probably the most liked and respected for its foresight and its balwell-thought anced. approach to international and domestic affairs. according to the UNDP Human Development Index (HDI), an index which is a composite score of several variables that measure the level of human development in a nation. Israel is ranked 21st, in the world. Egypt is ranked 107th and Jordan is ranked 80th. Even though we may not have the strongest economy in the region we do place well in the middle among the participants.

Israel is going to downplay its role and abilities in the conference, according to an article in an Israeli business magazine. The author of the article claimed that most Arab countries were surprised by the level of professignalism and readiness of the Israeli team in Casablanca, especially since most of the Arab teams came reate in economics), Thomas unprepared. Also, to the dis-Sargent and Robert Barro, may of some Arab countries. scurried to the Israeli booth to strike deals. In other words, the rule that business is apolitical held true in Casablanca. Furthermore, the author of the article suggested that in order not to alienate Arab investors, the ideal strategy for Israel would be to act as a benefactor, a friend and a partner and not as one who can dominate the whole region. Will the opinion makers in Israel listen to this advice and not go after the gold this time? I don't know, but it is an interesting strategy. After all, MENA is only a conference and not the end game. We do know, however, that Israel has prepared over 160 regional projects that are worth around \$26 Egypt, because of the state

of its economy, will play an aggressive game at MENA. It has the largest delegation and it is setting shop way ahead of the others. Therefore, Jordan should expect its heaviest competition from Egypt, especially since both our products and abilities are similar. However, Egypt's emphasis will be on funding for the public sector because it has a large public sector and a poor infrastructure. In tourism our industry should have the upper hand because ours is still in its infancy while theirs is fully mature.

There are many players in the "MENApoly" game. After all is said and done. Jordan's economy will improve further after the conference from having learned about its competitors, from having known about its standing relative to the region and the world, from drawing some investments large or small, and from the exposure of our beautiful people and country to the world. Let's view MENA as a game for which we should be well-prepared. Neither I. nor any of the so-called experts, will be able to determine the outcome objectively at this stage of the game. But, being the world's most gracious hosts, we can enjoy. for these days, our befitting role: Hosts to the world.

LETTERS

Insult to the people

To the Editor:

TO SUGGEST that anyone can win a presidential election with 99.66 per cent of the popular vote is not only an obvious farce, but a direct insult to the people concerned. Not even a flock of sheep could have such a consensus.

Omar Ábbas,

Rights for women

To the Editor:

THE JORDAN Times' editorial on Oct. 19 rightly addresses the issue concerning Palestinian passport rights. But the last paragraph caught my attention. It said "till that moment in time arrives, Jordanians, all Jordanians, whether new or old, must continue to be regarded and treated as citizens of this country -

entitled, as they should be, to the rights and privileges associated with this citizenship."

To me the issue is not, "whether new or old," but rather, "whether male or female," as citizenship rights do not apply equally to both Jordanian sexes. It is my understanding that the Constitution states that all citizens of the country enjoy equal rights. Why then is it impossible for a Jordanian woman to pass her Jordanian nationality to her children? Why is the nationality of a child determined by the nationality of his father and not equally through his mother? This discrimination in the application of equal rights affects countless women in this country and should be corrected. If the women in this country are not entitled to be treated equally, then the Constitution should be rewritten accordingly.

Karen Asfour. Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters' intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Regent reviews summit facilities

accommodating the guests. He also visited the Palace of

Culture where the opening

The private sector mean-

while announced that it was

making final preparations for

the conference and was pre-

paring working papers to pre-

sent projects, according to Thabet Al Taher, chairman

of the private sector's execu-

tive committee in charge of

present 139 projects of which

70 are for industrial schemes.

killing one person and wounding 16. Sixteen Shiite

Muslims from Kuwait, ac-

cused of acting on behalf of

Two years earlier, more than 400 people, most of them Iramans, died in clashes

between Saudi security forces

and protesters during an anti-

Western rally organised by

Tehran during another Mec-

The ship's owners said la-

ter the vessel was now travell-

ing at normal speed but was

not expected to reach Cyprus

before late on Saturday. It

would leave on Sunday with a

first batch of Palestinians and

make a second trip to collect

Palestinians are children.

More than half of the

News of yet another delay was greeted with dismay by the Palestinians aboard the

Countess M, anchored about

been 10 days now and we still

don't know where we will be

taken," one passenger told

yet tell us who will be going

complained one passenger. "We want to know. We are

waiting for a ship that is not arriving."

Some of the Palestinians

whiled away the hours &

fishing over the side of the

Greek-owned ship in a scene

whose calm contrasted with

the unrest of the past few

mians boiled over into anger

on Friday and a mob got into

a shouting match with the

captain and crew of the ship,

scaring away a medical team

Tension subsided when

five Syrian officials boarded

the Countess M and ex-

Clinton would veto the bill in

Mr. Daschle said Califor-

nia Democrat Dianne Fein-

stein and a number of other

Senate democrats were work-

ing with Mr. Dole to resolve

Like most other countries,

Mr. Dole's bill sets aside

the United States maintains

\$100 million in State Depart-

ment funds for building a new

embassy and would require

that the embassy be moved to

Jerusalem no later than May

This would be at the end of

its embassy in Tel Aviv.

differences on the bill.

its present form.

U.S. Senate to debate Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

Christopher as saying Mr. paign for the 1996 Republi-

Frustration among Palesti-

and who will be staying,

We are fed up... it has

They (officials) did not

five_miles off Cyprus.

Iran, were executed.

ca pilgrimage.

others.

reporters.

The private sector plans to

Saudi police hunt for bomber

R.I to fly home 14 Jordanians

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1)

preparations.

session will be held.

(Continued from page 1)

Ministry of Information

Secretary General Navef

Moula said in a statement

Saturday that the information

committee will organise a

tour of the different press

centres for the local and fore-

ign press prior to the opening of the conference.

Prime Ministry where he met

with acting Prime Minister

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and

Deputy Prime Minister

Khaled Al Karaki. Discus-

sion at the meeting focused

on Jordan's preparations to host the MENA summit and

The Saudi authorities, af-

ter the 1991 Gulf war when

U.S.-led forces deployed in

the kingdom evicted Iraq

from Kuwait, banned a Com-

mittee for the Defence of

Legitimate Rights. They

announced the arrest of 110

The committee used mos-

ques to spread the opposi-

plained efforts to end their

Muammar Qadhafi ordered

30,000 Palestinians to leave

his country and return to

Palestinian self-ruled areas,

ostensibly to expose what he

calls the sham peace between

the Palestine Liberation

Entry to the Palestinian-

Some 1,000 expelled from

Harbour sources said the

Countess M would be

allowed into Larnaca dock

once the Syrian vessel arrived

in order to transfer its passen-

Qadhafi will hold a news

conference in Tripoli on

Tuesday, the Cairo bureau of

the Libyan news agnecy

Reuters, JANA said it would

arrange transport for local

and foreign journalists who

wanted to cover what it called

Col. Oadhafi, who rarely

meets the international

media, held a news confer-

ence earlier this month at a

camp near the border with

Egypt that houses hundreds of Palestinians he expelled.

can presidential nomination.

The embassy transfer is

strongly backed by Jewish

groups including the main

pro-Israeli lobby, the Amer-

ican Israel Public Affairs

"AIPAC commends and

congratulates all the co-

sponsors (of the bill) for their

leadership and persistence in

support of moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, which

has been the capital of the

Jewish people for 3000 years

and of the state of Israel for

nearly five decades," AIPAC Executive Director Neal Sher

But James Zogby, presi-

dent of the Arab American

Institute, said in an interview

that the bill would seriously

compromise the U.S. role in

the Middle East peace pro-

cess and accused Mr. Dole of

said in a statement.

Committee (AIPAC).

Col. Oadhafi's "internationa

news conference."

In a letter telefaxed to

JANA said.

Meanwhile Colonel

ruled Gaza Strip and Jericho

Libya are stranded at a desert

camp in the Libyan-Egyptian

Organisation and Israel.

is controlled by Israel.

In August, Libyan leader

sympathisers in 1993.

domestic issues.

Prince Ra'd also visited the

Features Regent reviews summit f (Continued from page 1) Grand Palace Hotel and reviewed the facilities for accommodating the guests. He also visited the Palace of Culture where the consists

'Many of the countries participating in the conference are investment starved and can be viewed as our competitors."

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Mr. Dole's initiative has been called an effort to win Jewish support in his cam-

Bosnian foes swap detainees

(Continued from page 1)

massacres that changed the

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drawing south pressing large or small, and four Constitute of the being people and commy to see world believe view views and commy to the world believe to the seed of the see ban heavy weapons from a 20-kilometre zone around the would be which we shall broke down.

The down. nor any of the small

gust led to NATO air strikes against the Serbs, and eventhally to a ceasefire and the scheduled peace talks.

two the outcome operation in the safe. But, being the world's me process hosts, we can enter the cort these days, out before to the world. "It's good to be back." Esma Muratovic, a survivor of one of the massacres, said. "I missed seeing people, missed this street, even if it brings back bad memories." As preparations were step-

ped up for the crucial talks at an air base in the United States, clear differences between the warring parties, and between the major powers involved in the peace process, made clear the negotiations would not be easy.

French President Jacques Chirac threw his weight behind Russian calls for talks in Moscow before those scheduled in Ohio.

From Ghalia Alul in Beirut

THREE PALESTINIAN journalists were earlier this month denied the chance to participate in a training course in Beirut after the authorities Lebanese refused to grant them entry visas. The reason: their

nationality. Lebanon decided to prevent all Palestinians from entering the country in the aftermath of Libya's expulsion in August of its Palestinians residents. It also imposed strict conditions on Palestinians who hold Lebanese travel documents, demanding that they obtain exit permits from the interior ministry before leaving its territories.

three While the Palestinian journalists from Gaza were allowed to go back to their country after they were not allowed into Lebanon, thousands of others who have been expelled from Libya are still stranded on the Egyptian boarder and on a ship in Cyprus. "When I was prevented

from entering Lebanon, I felt like I am a prisoner wherever I go," said Asya Abdul Hadi, who was among the journalists who were prevented from entering Lebanon. "Because I am a Palestinian, I should have many passports to satisfy all governments," she told the Jordan Times from Gaza. She said that Lebanon is not justified in exploiting Libya's posi-

Libya's expulsion of its Palestinian residents has invoked old Lebanese fears of solving the Palestine refugees problem Lebanon's expense. Lebanon is afraid that a final solution to the Palestinian problem could entail settling permanently in its territories all the Palestinian refugees it hosts. Such an eventuality, some Lebanese say, would disturb the delicate balance among the county's various ethnic and religious groups. Hence is Lebanon's refusal to allow Palestinians, even

Living with fear

Palestinian refugees uneasy about their future as Lebanon closes its door to their stranded kinsmen



Palestinians who have been expelled from Libya wait in a bus at the Egyptian border (AFP photo)

those who carry Lebanese travel documents, into its territories.

"Lebanese are afraid of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon since the country hosts more than 650,000 Palestinians" who are spread in 13 refugee camps all over the country, said Nabil Abu Munsif, a senior editor at An Nahar newspa-

Mr. Abu Munsif added that this fear increased after Libya's recent decision to expel over 35 thousand Palestinians to different Arab countries, among them Lebanon.

The (Palestinian) - presence (also) affects the economic situation in Lebanon. Unlike Syrians in the coun-

try, who are engaged in different jobs that are not of a Lebanese speciality, Palestinians are taking away jobs from Lebanese,

he said. Palestinian refugees are uneasy about their "unstable situation" in Lebanon and are awaiting a solution to this problem. Many of them have relatives who were expelled from Libya and are waiting on the

They also believe that their case, which has not yet been solved, is being manipulated.

"Libya got rid of the Palestinians who were a burden for it and Lebanon prevented them from entering the country. They are

treating us like playing cards," said Saleem Kayed, a supermarket owner in Shatila camp who has nephews and cousins among the Palestinians stranded in Cyprus.

Some Palestinians in

Lebanon believe that their kinsmen are the victims of an internal political power struggle. The Maronites are known to be among the staunchest opponents of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The government, these Palestinians charge, closed its doors to Palestinians to win the

Hrawi's mandate.

"Lebanon wanted

Maronites' support for the extension of President Elias

bid to) extend the president's mandate" claimed Mohammad Rabeh, a pharmacist in Shatila camp in Beirut's southern suburbs whose brother was expelled from Libya and was not allowed to enter Lebanon. A Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine

appease the Maronites (and

to win their support in its

(DFLP) official, Saleb Zeidan. said that there is no reason for the Lebanese to be afraid of the Palestinian

presence. Palestinians, he said, consider their stay in Lebanon temporary. Calling Lebanon's decision to refuse entry to Palestinians a "collective

told the Jordan Times that "obviously, Lebanon is pressuring Palestinians to leave the country, and this action will not serve that

purpose."
Mr. Zeidan rejected An Nahar editor's argument that Palestinians were taking away jobs from the Lebanese. He said the employment market in Lebanon is not affected by the Palestinian presence because only a few of the Palestinians are allowed to

get work permits. Mr. Zeidan called on the Lebanese government to take into consideration the human rights of the Palestinians and reverse its decision.

Mu'taz Ahmad, a member of the national committee in Shatila camp, claimed that Lebanon planning measures against Palestinians in its territories before the Libya's move brought their difficult situation to the limelight. The deportation of Palestinians from Libya only accelerated the Lebanese decision. he said.

He said that students in refugee camps are planning to stage sit-ins to protest

Lebanon's decision. Mr. Ahmad added that some women from the Shatila camp delivered a memorandum to the interior minister, urging him to reverse the decision and be more flexible with Palestinians who hold

Lebanese travel documents. We want to keep trying with the government until it changes its decision," Mr. Ahmad said.

Intérior ministry officials were not available for com-

ment. But the editor at An Nahar

newspaper did not expect a change in the Lebanese policy unless Libya takes back the Palestinians it has expelled.

If that happens, "then Lebanon might change its position towards receiving Palestinians," Mr. Abu Munsif told the Jordan punishment" Mr. Zeidan

TAIPEL - The crisis simmering today between Taiwan and mainland China has replaced Korea as the powder keg voted most-likely-to-explode by Asian leaders. The man holding the fuse is Lee Teng-hui, president of Taiwan, the only person in the world whose receipt of an alumni award plaque from Cornell University almost started a war across the Straits of

Taiwan. Mr. Lee invited me over for an interview Friday in his office in downtown Taipei. The conversation left me both reassured and disquieted. It was reassuring because Mr. Lee is an unlikely fuse. A sober, owlish man, who weighed his words carefully, he evinced a strong grasp of the red lines that constrict the behaviour of Taiwan --red lines he is certainly trying to push out

ly to breach. Ît was disquieting, though, because, as he made clear, this is a plastic moment

but is not like-

"transparent pandering." "It undercuts the credibilrelations ity of the United States as a between China cosignatory to an agreement and Taiwan, a time when that specifically guaranteed that there would be no deternew pressures are bending old constraints to the breakmination of these issues until ing point. The potential for final status discussing bemiscalculation by Beijing or tween the parties," Mr. Zog-Taipei is enormous.

With that in mind, Mr. Lee made two overarching points: First, he is not seeking internationally recognised independence for Taiwan — a move that could easily spark a war. He is, though, seeking a higher profile for Taiwan on the world stage — one that would be commensurate with its economic clout and freewheeling democracy but would still fall short of formal independence. Second, he signaled a strong desire to step back from the brink ad resume the quiet dialogue that had been going on between Beijing and Taipei since 1987, but was broken

For got the chance?

Taiwan's Lee, a quest for world stature

off by Beijing in the wake of Mr. Lee's visit in June to Cornell

Asked what his long-term goal was, Mr. Lee said: "It has always been and remains unification with the mainland. But unification must be achieved only when we can guarantee democracy, freedom and prosperity for all the peoples of a unified

"Perhaps after the power shifting Beijing's prois sorted out in Beijing and the elections are over in Taiwan, we could all consider the possibility of a meeting again."

> China. I have never talked deal with this problem with about independence or permanent separation for Taiwan."

The president suggested that in seeking a higher profile for Taiwan in international forums he was only acting on his people's natural desire for recognition of their remarkable achievements on this once-barren island, which is now one of the richest countries in the world. Thumping the coffee table, he fumed: 'This is a democratic country. I have to do what people want met to do. This is a different world now. People cannot live in isolation. Any leader here must give some expression to the dignity of the country. We don't think this impairs our future goal of reunification." What would he tell

"I would tell him I wel-

come the resumption of normal relations between the U.S. and Beijing, but no one should be allowed to manipulate this rapprochement against us. It is important not to make a strategic error and treat Taiwan as a province of Communist China."

The U.S., he said, still has the responsibility and the obligation to protect Taiwan based on the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act of

But the Taiwanese president went out of his way to extend an olive branch to China's president, Jiang Zemin, suggesting that their two countries settle their differences quietly, without the

"You can see that they have criticised me so violently and I have not said a word," said Mr. Lee, speak-

only more popular at home. "I can assure you that we are going to

patience, reason and calm, not emotion. We are opening the door."

Mr. Lee expressed his hope to meet with Mr. Jiang, and he seemed to hint that he might be flexible on the venue. Until now Taiwan has insisted on an international setting, while Beijing wants it in China.

"Perhaps after the power shifting is sorted out in Beijing and the elections are over in Taiwan, we could all consider the possibility of a again," said Lee. "Jiang meeting President Zemin's position is very del-Gov. Pete Wilson signed icate right now, and so we need to wait for a quiet moment when things might

The New York Times

be less sensitive."

President Bill Clinton if he Wave of gang violence leaves Los Angeles under siege

By Jeff Meyer Associated Press

LOS ANGELES-Members of street gangs in Los Angeles made headlines in the last three years by calling a truce. They're making headlines this year, too — only now, it's because of a fresh wave of

violence. Three shootings over seven days in September have frightened crimeweary Los Angeles residents and moved elected officials to beef up efforts to stop the violence in gang-saturated neighbour-

Gang members ambushed a car that made a wrong turn, killing a three-year-old girl and wounding her younger

A 12-year-old boy heading home after a dodgers game is wounded by a bullet fired from a van on the freeway. Police suspect the gunman was a gang mem-

A teen-age gang member in a crowded fast-food restaurant is killed in a drive-by shooting that also wounds three other customers. "The reality is, it's hap-

pening too often in this city . . . I'm getting tired (of it)," said city councilman Mike Hernandez. Mayor Richard Riordan

called for the creation of a task force of city, county and state law enforcement authorities to combat gang crime the first time the different jurisdictions will join to address the prob-

legislation making driveby sayings an offence punishable by death. "Hanging is too good for them," he 'To these guiless cowards I want there to be at the threat of gang vio-

no mistake in the message we send to them." After the truce, gang crime dropped temporarily in some neighbourhoods.

But the violence is on the rise again, and nowhere is it more evident than in the LAPD's Rampart division. just west of downtown, gang-related where' killings have soared this year after two years of decline.

homicides With through September, has already Rampart passed last year's total of 98 and is on track to eclipse the division's high of 149 set in 1992, said detective Terry Wessel, a gang specialist.

Police say the surging murder rate is the direct result of the end of a truce declared two years ago by the so-called Mexican Mafia, imprisoned members of Hispanic street gangs who control heroin sales in the area.

Trigger-happy newcomers have ignored the peace, leaving bodies in their wake.

Officials estimate there are at least 1,140 gangs in Los Angeles county with membership 143,730.

The LAPD says they're short-handed by comparison. The department has 8,300 officers to patrol 438 square miles, while the county sheriff's department has 8,200 officers to cover the city's unincorporated surroundings.

In many parts of southern California, residents take it upon themselves to protect against gang violence. In some schools, pupils are taught to dive and tuck at the sound of gunfire — a special bell alerts students and teachers in some schools to return to their classrooms

In Long Beach, 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of Los Angeles, one school built a concrete wall last vear to stop errant bullets from reaching the playground. And some public schools require students to wear uniforms with innocuous colours to deter gang violence.

But deepening despair among poor youths along with an 'unprecedented access to firearms" has fuelled a resurgence in gang crime, says the Rev. Gregory Boyle, who has worked for 10 years to curb gang violence in largely Hispanic east Los Angeles.

"These guys have gone a long time without any hope that things will be any better for them, that their situation will ever change," said Boyle, whose work was the subject of a recently published book, "Father Greg and the Homeboys."

"All of this is symptomatic of the permanent underclass of which gangs seem to be a permanent fixture."

Malcolm Klein, a University of Southern California sociology professor, said cutbacks in governmental programs designed to provide inner city youths with alternatives also have contributed to the rise in gang activity.

What we have now is large, large numbers of unemployed or under employed youth . . . Who don't have meaningful job situations," he said.

"A, that means frustration, and b, that means they're out on the streets in a lot of groups subject to the temptations of strong peer pressure."



By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has accepted a request from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that all Jordanian banks operating in the West Bank and Gaza Strip place 40 per cent of their deposit accounts with the PNA, but this move would be effective only after Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Satur-

CBJ Governor Mohammad Nabulsi also said he was not aware of another reported requirement by the PNA that all banks operating in the Palestinian territories invest 40 per cent of their deposits in projects in the territories.

We have accepted a PNA requirement that all banks operating in the West Bank and Gaza Strip keep 40 per cent of their deposits as reserves with the PNA," Dr. Nabulsi said, adding that this requirement was contained in a circular the Palestinian Monetary Authority had sent to all commercial banks in the territories.

"However, we insisted that the placing of the reserves will take effect only with the completion of Israeli with-

the CBJ governor told the

Under the Sept. 28 selfrule accord signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, the withdrawal is expected to be completed by early next

A report in the local press Saturday said that the PNA circular to banks also contained a requirement that the banks should also specify a minimum of 40 per cent of their deposits for investments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but Dr. Nabulsi said he was not aware of such a requisite.

Dr. Nabulsi said he had met with Fuad Bseiso, head of the Palestinian Monetary Authority, late last week in Amman and there was no discussion of such a require-

'There have been a few press reports but I am not aware of any such demand, said Dr. Nabulsi.

In any event, the basic understanding about any investment requirement is that the funds would come only from the accounts of the banks in the area of operations and not from the head

A local newspaper which reported the purported requirement from the PNA said that if the demand was en-

operating in the West Bank and Gaza would come under pressure to recall some of their loans given to Jordanian businesses and industries in the West Bank.

Banking sources fear pressure on the liquidity of some banks that may result in heightened competition for deposits and increased in-terest rates." the report said.

According to the report, the Palestinian Monetary Authority is complaining that some of the Jordanian banks were benefiting from the interest differential in Jordan, where the average yield on medium-term interest on dinar deposits is around 7.5 per cent, and the Palestinian territories, where the interest is

around nine per cent.
The authority says, according to the report, some banks were only attracting deposits and not reinvesting the funds in the territories. In some cases, according to the report, some banks extend credit only to certain companies and parties "outside the terri-

tories.

More than 15 branches of Jordanian banks operate in the occupied West Bank and the autonomous Gaza Strip, having opened them in the last two years following the breakthroughs in the Middle

Egypt to launch project to manage gas pipeline

CAIRO (R) - Egypt will set up a joint venture firm to manage a natural gas pipeline intended to reach Europe and is considering U.S. oil firm Amoco and Italy's Agip as partners, Egypt's oil minis-ter was quoted as saying.

Hamdi El Banbi said in an interview published in the official Al Ahram newspaper that if the project was approved, Amoco, Agip and the Egyptian General Petroleum Company (EGPC) would each contribute 33 per cent to the company's capital. He did not specify when it would be set up.

He said Egypt was still negotiating with the governments of Israel, Jordan and the PLO establishing the pipeline across their territories but extending it to Europe via Turkey would wait a

"But the current stage of this project will stop at extending the pipeline to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian areas because with our current reserves we are unable to sign any contracts with European countries," he

Egypt's natural gas reserves were estimated in July at 32.3 trillion cubic feet and Mr. Banbi said Egypt had intensified efforts to discover new gas finds.

Developing countries urged to monitor capital inflows

Washington (USIA) — A major lesson of the Mexican financial crisis is that while developing countries should seek private capital inflows to help their economies grow, they must be ready to act to limit the damage should those flows suddenly reverse, says the director of the Bank of International Settlements (BIS).

"The potential for volatility is greater than we be-lieved," said Andrew Crockett, managing director of the BIS, who spoke recently at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on capital flows after the Mexican crisis. The task is how to reduce vulnerability.

The BIS, based in Basle, Switzerland, promotes cooperation among central banks in international financial settlements. BIS members include most industrial coun-

Private capital inflows to developing countries have traditionally included loans and direct foreign investment. In recent years, portfolio investments and returning flight capital have played an increasing role, adding a new dimension of volatility. Much of the capital inflows to Mexico prior to 1994 were portfolio investment and capital belonging to Mexicans that had been held outside of Mexico.

Mr. Crockett defended the portfolio inflows, arguing that they can be as beneficial

as other kinds of investment providing they are used to support the right types of domestic investments.

In Mexico, large capital inflows in 1990-1993 helped the economy grow. Then in 1994 changes in world economic conditions, including rising U.S. interest rates, and several severe domestic political shocks caused capital to start flowing out of Mexico. placing downward pressure on the peso exchange rate.

The Mexican government tried to defend the exchange rate, using its foreign exchange reserves, which dropped from \$25,500 million at the end of 1993 to \$6,300 million at the end of 1994. according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In December 1994 the peso was allowed to float and lost 50 per cent of its value, causing a recession and economic crisis in Mexico that required an international rescue led by the United States.

Despite Mexico's bad experience, Mr. Crockett said developing countries should continue to seek private capital flows, including shortterm portfolio financing. The inflows, he said, should encourage discipline at the macroeconomic level with developing countries' officials insisting on certain policies because the "markets must be satisfied." At the microeconomic level, projects financed with international flows are more likely to focus on maintaining a good rate of

return, he said. "The cost of getting these benefits is that you have to protect yourself from market reversals," Mr. Crockett

Mr. Crockett cited a number of lessons from the Mexican crisis that could guide policymakers around future

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form

NOUGY

NORTS

BRAJEB

LAIFAC

Saturday's

Print answer here:

First, he said, a country must implement and maintain an economic reform policy that is "consistent and credible." This policy should be supported by a strong fiscal policy, so that the government itself does not have to borrow from foreign markets. If more capital flows in than can be "fruitfully absorbed" by the domestic

lar measures. Another lesson is that a balance-of-payments deficit even without a fiscal budget deficit, such as was the case in Mexico, "is potentially dangerous." To counteract such danger, it is necessary for a country to hold foreign exchange reserves, he said. "Holding reserves may be part of the price of participation in international markets." he said.

economy, Mr. Crockett said

the governments can step in

to absorb some of the assets

through savings plans or simi-

Also a lesson of the Mexican peso crisis, Mr. Crockett said, is that capital controls can be relaxed too fast. Coiombia. Chile and East Asian countries phased out capital controls more slowly, he said. When countries are faced with capital flight, however, it is important not to reinstate controls on outflows because that would worsen the situation, he added.

The need for developing countries to strengthen their domestic savings is another lesson from Mexico, Mr. Crockett said, noting that there are risks when foreign inflows replace domestic savings. Improving domestic savings requires strengthening of the domestic banking systems, a task that entailsmany small changes in banking regulations, Mr. Crockett said, warning as well against excessive short-term domes-

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

WHAT THEY THOUGHT

THE JUDGES DECISION WAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: ELUDE HUSKY FAMISH UNCURL

Where the mayor kept the money to pay for snow removal — IN A "SLUSH" FUND

tic borrowing. An additional lesson is that countries with fixed exchange-rate policies must have an "exit-strategy" for what to do when the rate can no longer be maintained, he

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export

open e

While the enormous financial package that was put together to help Mexico has proved beneficial, Mr. Crockett said, it is "politically inconceivable" that such a rescue would be possible for other countries. He also said that putting together a fund to handle future financial crises would create a dangerous "moral hazard": Countries may be more likely to get into trouble if they believe some international pot of money will rescue them.

"By getting it together you greatly increase the possibility it will be used." Mr. Crockett said. Instead, he said, it would better if the countries only designed the mechanism for providing

Mr. Crockett said countries should be encouraged to publish as many valuable economic statistics on a timely basis as possible, but noted that Mexico published much data that apparently was not fully appreciated in the months leading up to the crisis. The IMF, he added, should also publish more of its market assessments.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to be of greater assistance to those who need your help today and show that you are a fine humanitarian, who enjoys to help others.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan early today to do what you enjoy and then carry through with the project in a positive way and don't go off on any tangents which will deflect from your

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get conditions improved at home today so that you have more harmony and happiness there later in the day for there to be content-

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study into the finest of principles and then apply them to daily living especially today and you will have greater prosperity with your activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have good ideas in the morning today about how you can become more prosperous and successful so carry through with them without delay.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You understand how to gain your personal objectives early today and later this evening go after them successfully in such a manner, which will be benefi-

. . .

I May 1 Lan

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get into philosophical studies today which will help you to handle personal affairs better. Take care you do nothing which could disturb your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be with a dynamic friend during the daytime today. Avoid one you know who tells too many lies, and you will keep out of difficulties

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You understand better how to gain more prestige in the outside world at this time. Don't make any changes in your method or operating. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a

plan worked out for which you need financial help at this time, so see that financier you know who is at leisure today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Begin the day today sensibly by handling and unfinished business which has been delayed, but don't take on any new responsibilities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can carry through with promises which have been made to others easily. Show that you have fine abilities, which should come to the attention of higher-ups.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

Greenspan sees strong U.S. economy if deficit is cut

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan Friday predicted a "very impressive" future for the economy and a "terribly successful 21st century" if Washington succeeds in reining in the budget

"All of us... have to recognise what'we have here is a very major stake," the cen-tral bank chief said, "If this process of bringing the deficit finally under control succeeds, then the economic outlook is really very impressive.'

For now, Mr. Greenspan told the National Italian American Foundation, the economy looks to be in bagested he is in no rush to cut interest rates again.

"For the moment, we have a relatively balanced set of forces," he said, adding, "it's difficult to read and I'm sure they're not going to stay that way terribly long."

But Mr. Greenspan said the longer-term outlook was clearer - and brighter provided the United States reins in the \$160 billion-a-

"We have developed into an extraordinarily first class economy," he said. "We have moved to the forefront of economic development in a manner which is suggestive of a terribly successful 21st century if we can get over this particular hump.

The Republican-led Congress and President Clinton have both vowed to balance the budget but have been at loggerheads over how to do although in recent days there have been signs of im-

pending compromise.

Mr. Greenspan declined to be drawn into the budget debate. But he did stress that the only way to achieve a balanced budget in the long run was through cuts in government spending, not increases in taxes.

He also repeated his support for efforts by some lawmakers to save the governyear federal budget deficit. ment money by lowering the annual cost of living increases in pension and other benefits it pays out.

Those cost of living increases are calculated based on the government's consumer price index. Mr. Greenspan said that for technical reasons the index overstates actual inflation by up to one percentage point.

Whatever the shape of the eventual budget deal, many Wall Street analysts expect the central bank to cut interest rates to help offset the short-term drag on the eco-nomy that would come with

The Fed cut short-term rates for the first time in

nearly three years in July, but has held them steady since then as the economy has shown signs of recovering from a second quarter slump

The Fed chief gave no hint of what the central bank's response might be to a budget deal.

But in a separate interview Friday, Fed Governor Edward Kelley warned against expectations of a tit-for-tat interest rate cut by the central bank in response to a budget agreement.

While not ruling out a further rate cut, Mr. Kelley played down the economic impact of the so-called fiscal drag from budget cuts.

i am not concerned that ... if going to drag the economy down," he said. "there are many favourable things that are going to ensue... that in my view will easily overcome the drag."

In his remarks. Mr. Greenspan emphasised the benefits from cutting the deficit, and the risks if that was not carried out.



"I know you hate vegetables, so I drew

your boss's face on every pea to make them easier to bite.'

lower government spending.

THE Daily Crossword by Glenton Petgrave

ACROSS 1 Lynx 7 Possible cold sign 14 Don a judge's

garb 15 in name only 16 Oozed 17 Retired, in a way

.19 That is 20 Slipulation 21 Make over 22 Stupefy

23 Printing errors 24 Combo 25 Gaze at

26 Removed fruit 27 Broke bread 28 Imaginary

animai 30 Narrow back street 32 God of love 33 Military cap

35 In force 38 Small bird 40 Storage place 41 Stigmatize

42 Part of a trip 45 Stuff and nonsense 47 Smiles broadly

48 Partial: pref. 11 Coquette 12 Kind of pass 49 On top of 50 Strong drinks 13 Well-educated 51 Beer 18 Pigs' attention getter 20 Novices 52 Line-up member

9 News articles

23 Take-out words

29 Gun an engine

(improvise)

monastery

36 Jungle queen

readers

41 Vicious ones

existence

39 Well-bred

43 Come into

33 Asian rulers

34 Eternities

35 Head of a

37 Usher in 38 Books for young

26 Concern

30 Imitated

31 Ad --

10 Hairy coat

55 Unexpected success 56 Exact satisfaction for

57 Stealth 58 Certain fish

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Jordan's first export bank to open early '96

By Suleiman Al Khalidi Reuter

AMMAN - Jordan's first export finance bank is expected to open in early 1996 to service the country's rapidly growing export industry and exploit business opportunities from peace in the Mid-

"By the end of this year all legal requirements will be met and by the first quarter of next year operations will start," said Ziyad Fariz, head of the founding committee of Jordan Export and Finance

Dr. Fariz told Reuters the specialist bank "would provide short and long-term financing to help exporters expand their production base by investing in new technolo-

"With the country adopting export oriented policies, there is an export sector

bound to grow," he added.

The bank, with 20 million dinars (\$28 million) in capital, has raised 16 million dinars (\$22.4 million) from a private placement with big industrial firms and state investment bodies.

Its institutional shareholders include Jordan's two main hard currency export earners: Arab Potash Company, and Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. Others include the private industrial Nuqui Group, Jordan's pharmaceutical holding company Hikma Investments, leading insurance companies and members of Jordan's Trade Association of Exporters.

The remaining four million dinars (\$5.6 million) were offered in a public flotation that closed Thursday. The Central Bank, seeing

the need for a specialist bank to offer export-finance granted the bank's licence this year, the first new banking licence since the late

The Central Bank has told the new bank it must have at least 50 per cent of its business in export-related activ-

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The bank will provide nontraditional finance for industries to expand, obtain credit abroad and domestically, and act as a conduit for foreign aid aimed at boosting Jordanian exports.

The new export-finance bank would help "Jordanian exporters to restructure their institutions... catering for a changing pattern of trade from barter to free trade with a growing need for new financial instruments," Dr. Fariz

promise between Europe and the United States establishing two institutions to develop the Middle East, Israeli and U.S. officials said last week.

U.S., Europe compromise on Middle East bank

TEL AVIV - An economic A second financial institusummit in Amman this tion is also to be created at month will announce a com-

Washington and several European states had argued over the necessity of a Middle East development bank, with the U.S. backing the idea and some Europeans favouring a smaller institution channeling funds to the region.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters the creation of a Cairo-based regional development bank would be

the conference, formed from the "permanent secretariat" of an economic working group set up at the first Middie East development conference in Casabianca last year. This Amman-based institu-

projects and seek funds (elsewhere) without having a permanent fund," Economics Minister Yossi Beilin said. U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk said the development

tion "will deal with specific

bank would have an authorised capital of \$5 billion, with \$1.25 billion in paid-up

COMPANY'S MAKE

"These funds would be used to leverage resources that already exist in the private sector, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, and various Arab Gulf funds," Mr. Indyk told Israeli

businessmen. Mr. Beilin said details of both institutions are still under negotiation and would be finalised in December.

An Israeli source said the U.S. is opposed to having two permanent financing institutions in the region, but may drop its opposition by the time the development bank is set up in two years. Talking about the summit, Israeli and U.S. officials said it would focus on business

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and not politics, unlike Casablanca.

"Casablanca was the opening up of relations with our neighbours, it was the death of the Arab boycott," Mr. Beilin said. "In Amman we do business."

More than 60 countries will be represented at the threeday conference starting on

Mr. Indyk said Israel's role in the region's development

must be a balanced one. "Israel's large and dynamic economy, advanced industries, and highly skilled workforce are both attractive and intimidating to your Arab neighbours," he said.

A review of news from the Arabic press

Foreigners barred from gas station jobs

NON-JORDANIAN labourers will not be given permits to sell petroleum products at gas stations in main cities but can obtain permits to work in washing and lubricating cars, fixing punctured tyres and other general car service jobs if Jordanian labourers were not available, the minister of labour told a group of gas station owners. At another meeting with the head and members of the association of bakeries' owners, the minister stressed that non-Jordanians are not allowed to sell bread directly to the public and to take accountacy and administrative positions at the bakeries. He said non-Jordanians could be employed in other sections such as the production of bread (Al Ra'i).

Road projects in Amman at JD35m

* ★ THE VOLUME of work on opening, asphalting and maintaining roads in the Amman Governorate over the coming five years is estimated at JD39 million. According to Abdul Wahab Arabiyat, the works director at the governorate, JD16 million will go for reconstructing main and secondary roads, JD8 million for routine and antihazard maintenance, JD6 million for reconstructing and improving village roads, JD5 million for asphalting roads and JD4 million for opening and paving agricultural roads.

Mr. Arabiyat said his department has a JD12.7 million budget for next year (Al Ra'i).

Proposals to curb bouncing cheques

** THE COMMITTEE entrusted to review the phenomenon of bouncing cheques has presented its recommendations to the legal authorities to amend the penalties for writing cheques without having sufficient funds in the accounts. The full recommendations of the committee are as follows:

A) Banning the use of bookstore cheques. B) Partial payments of a cheque's value if the full amount in an account was not sufficient. Example of this would be presenting the bank with a cheque for JD5,000 when funds in the account amount only to JD1,000. Partial payment

would be for the bank to pay JD1,000 of the cheque's C) Consolidating the strength of a domestic bill by first paying its value and presenting the objection afterwards except when in cases of forgery.

D) Adopt the magnetic cheques issued by banks or institutions authorised to issue cheques. E) Lowering the value of stamps on bills discounted.

K) Keeping penalties at their maximum level but giving the minimum sentence if the value of the cheque was paid or settled to the plaintiff's satisfaction (Al Dustour).

Oil company to have NRA staff

★★ THE NATIONAL Oil Company (NOC) has agreed with the government to select 250 employees working in the petroleum field at the Natural Resources Authority to work for the company. The remaining 150 staff will be absorbed within the ranks of the authority. NOC chairman Rajab Al Saad said the company was able to take a JD250,000 advance from the government to pay for various establishment costs including office rent. After starting operations, NOC will finance part of the costs by splitting the returns from petroleum and gas supplies with the government in accordance with a concession agreement discussed by the cabinet yesterday (Saturday) (Al Dus-

Butter prices go up by 80%

☆☆ PRICES OF butter have went up by 80 per cent while prices of animal fat have risen by 100 per cent, an importer of milk products has said. He attributed the increase to reduced subsidies by European countries on these products, pointing out that most affected in the local market were cheese, butter, cream and animal fat. The importer said that more than ten companies which import butter are facing lower profit compared to previous years. He referred to the price increase of animal fat and advised the consumers to switch to vegetable fat and vegetable oil processed locally (Al Aswaq).

U.S. chipmakers AMD and Nexgen to merge

SUNNYVALE, California (AP) — One of the oldest makers of computer chips joined forces with a young upstart in a surprise \$840 million merger aimed at creating a formidable challenger to industry-leading In-

tel Corp. The Friday marriage of Advanced Micro Devices Inc. (AMD) and Nexgen marked a rarity in the computer chip industry, where rising costs have forced numer-

ous joint ventures but few outright mergers.
The AMD-Nexgen announcement capped a week in which Intel reported powerful earnings gains and a dramatic expansion of its global chip-making capacity. The merger reflected how intel's competitors feel unable

to keep pace.

AMD repeatedly has delayed production of a computer chip that would rival Intel's Pentium processor, now the standard brains for most personal computers. The marriage with Nexgen is aimed at catching Intel as the industry is preparing to move to an even more powerful generation of computer

AMD, founded in 1969, is one Silicon Valley's pioneers. Nexgen, less than a decade old, is best known for innovative design of chips but no manufacturing ability and limited sales.

Under the agreement approved by both companies' boards, Nexgen shareholders will get .8 share of AMD for each share of Nexgen, a deal AMD chief executive officer Jerry Sanders said was worth about \$840 million.

The deal, under discussion for the past two months, is expected to close in the first quarter of 1996.

Mr. Sanders said the merger catapults AMD into contention against Intel, which has 80 per cent of the market for computer chips.

What the customers want is a credible alternative," he said. "We want to offer a complete series of products. This works perfectly for us." Atiq Raza, Nexgen's chief executive, will be the merged

officer and will report to Mr. Sanders. He also will sit on the board. "This is more than a straight merger. We consider it to be a strategic merger,'

company's chief technical

he said. The announcement came after the close of stock trading. AMD shares finished at \$26.12 1/2, down 75 cents on the New York Stock Exchange. Nexgen shares finished at \$21.25, down

37 1/2 cents. AMD, the nation's fourthlargest chip maker, has been hurt by industry price cuts and the demand for upgraded versions. Last week it rethird-quarter profit.

The company's flagship product, the AM486, is a clone of Intel's 486 chip.

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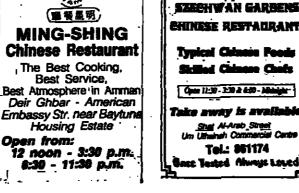
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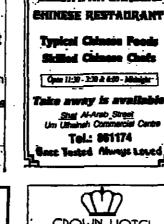
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Six of the best for Newcastle

LONDON (AFP) — Leaders Newcastle crushed 10-man Wimbledon 6-1 on Saturday, but premiership rivals Manchester United kept up the pressure on the Magpies by

trouncing Chelsea 4-1.
Third-placed Arsenal made sure they stayed in touch with a 2-0 victory over much fancied Aston Villa.

Newcastle, who have won 11 of their last 12 matches, were toasting hat-trick hero Les Ferdinand after the rout helped by Wimbledon keeper Paul Heald being sent off and midfield strongman Vinny Jones taking over in

Steve Howey opened the scoring the 31st minute, heading home Keith Gillespie's cross for a well deserved lead. Five minutes later. Ferdinand established a post-war record for Newcastle, scoring in his seventh successive game, a header from David Ginola's cross.

Gillespie sent over another cross in the 41st minute and Ferdinand dived full length for another header past the keeper. Lee Clark scored the fourth with Wimbledon replying through Marcus Gayle.

Heald's dismissal then helped Ferdinand to his hat-trick and 15th of the season, while Belgian defender Philipe Albert, playing his first premiership match since last Christmas, made another scoring return.

Albert was also on the scoresheet in a League Cup

win earlier this month. Manchester United, anxious to reclaim the premiership title, swept to a fine victory at Stamford Bridge but failed to stop former striker Mark Hughes from

scoring against his old club. Erick Cantona, making his 100th English appearance and his first return to London since the assault on a Crystal

Palace fan in January cos him his eight-month ban, had memorable match. The Frenchman made two early goals for United's top scorer Paul Scholes.

Scholes struck first after just three and a half minutes. England right back Gary Neville lofted the ball over Chelsea's Dutch sweeper Ruud Gullit, a touch on by Cantona and Scholes knocked it home.

Cantona then laid on a beautiful ball for scholes in the 10th minute to make it

Hughes pulled one back in the 75th minute after Paul Furlong headed John Spencer's cross down. However, Hughes' Welsh international teammate Ryan Giggs eased United's Nerves in the 78th minute with a superb individual goal.

Collecting the ball on the halfway line, he evaded Steve Clarke's vain challenge and went on to score. Brian McClair banged the fourth into the roof of the net but was later hacked down by Frank Sinclair, prompting a red card for the Chelsea de-

Arsenal took their record to seven wins in eight matches against villa, who hadn't been beaten in their last four visits to Highbury.
Villa cleared a Martin

Keown header off the line and goalkeeper Mark Bosnich saved a snap shot from Dennis Bergkamp, before Arsenal finally broke the deadlock in the 47th minute.

Paul Merson tapped in after Dutchman Glen Helder's low cross had been fumbled by the Australian keeper. Ian Wright sealed the points for the gunners with a 78th minute strike.

Nottingham Forest set a new record unbeaten run in the premiership with 23 matches, bettering the pre-



Nottingham Forest's goalscorer Bryan Roy (right) is outjumped by Bolton's Richard Sneekes, during the two sides game (Reuters photo)

vious mark set by Manchester United in a 3-2 victory over struggling Bolton.

helping it into the net.

But another Dutchman. Brian Roy, levelled it just three minutes later, converting Ian Woan's cross.

Steve Stone, who got the UEFA Cup winner against Auxerre, created Forest's second, passing along the goalline for Jason Lee to shoot home. However, Crossley made an even worse error in the 78th minute. clearing the ball only as far as Bolton's Dutch striker Fabian de Freitas who fired home with Crossley vainly trying to retrieve the ball. Colin Cooper scored

minute header. Reigning champions Blackburn Rovers confirmed yet again they are a one-man team, drawing 1-1 with West

Forest's winner with a last-

An Ian Dowie header in the 26th minute and the Hammers looked destined. for a rare victory — only for England centre forward Alan Shearer to equalise in the 90th minute, earning Blackburn their first away point of

the season Sheffield Wednesday beat Coventry 1-0, their first goal in three games, with Guy Whittingham working a one-two with Mark Bright before lobbing the keeper in the

Middlesbrough, playing their last game before Brazilian star Juninho comes on board, notched their seventh successive win — I-0 against Queen Park Rangers.

Craig Hignett scored from the penalty spot after Nick Barmby was fouled in 14th minute. Norwegian Jan Aage Fjortoft missed a second penalty after 46 minutes, hitting the crossbar.

Manchester City averted their ninth defeat in a row, grinding out a goalless draw with wayward Leeds United. sliding Benetton during the final qual-

German World Champion Michael Schumacher has his front wheel facing in the wrong direction as he fights to correct his

ifying session for the Pacific Grand Prix (Reuters photo)

Schumacher: I'll fight for the title, not the race

AIDA, Japan (AFP) — Michael Schumacher will settle for third or fourth place in Sunday's Pacific Grand Prix to clinch his second straight world championship title, he said here on Saturday.

"I would be happy not winning the race, but it depends on the situation during the race. I'd rather be champion than out of the race," he

The world champion needs just three points - a fourthplace finish or better — on Sunday to retain his title against rival Damon Hill.

To beat him. Hill must win all of the last three races without Schumacher taking those three points.

The imminent title decision overshadowed the achievement of Hill's Williams Renault team-mate David Coulthard, who won pole position for the fourth successive race.

In Saturday's final qualifying session. Coulthard's pole time from Friday was not seriously challenged. But to drive his superiority

home, the Scott went out just

before the session ended and improved the time from his overnight 1min 14.182 sec to 1:14.013.

Although both Hill and Schumacher improved their times, they remained second and third on the grid.

Hill admitted: "I would have preferred if Michael had

gone a bit faster than me. because now I'm starting on the dirty side of the track." But tyre wear has been

high in qualifying, and with a limit of seven sets for the weekend, Coulthard said: 'In retrospect, I should not have done that last run."

Schumacher will be placed behind Coulthard on the cleaner section, and Hill said: "It is going to be more difficult for me to maintain my position into the first cor-

The Ferraris maintained their fourth and fifth places. Jean Alesi ahead of Gerhard Berger, who spun off without damage on his final run.

Eddie Irvine hauled the Jordan Peugeot into the third row. "Starting near the front

is very important here because it's so difficult to over-take," he said.

Danish rookie Jan Magnussen (McLaren-Mercedes) qualified 12th for his first Grand Prix.

Veteran Aguri Suzuki, racing for the first time since the German Grand Prix, was the fastest of the Japanese driv-

Ukyo Katayama, back after resting following his Portueuese accident, was unhappy with the handling of his Tyrrell Yamaha, slipping back on the grid to 17th, in front of team-mate Mika

Taki Inoue in the footwork hart qualified 20th, improving his overnight time by more than one second.

Run on the shortest circuit used for Grand Prix racing, 3,703 kilometres, the race covers the most laps, 83. It starts at 1400 local time (0500 GMT) Sunday.

Fine, sunny, warm weather is forecast, and in similar conditions last year the race lasted I hour 40 minutes.

Red Rum passes final post



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RED RUM, the most famous racehorse in Britain, was humanely destroyed two days ago after being found distressed in his box. Appropriately, the only horse to win the Grand National three times was later buried in the shadow of the winning post at Aintree racecourse.

Richard Sneekes, sent off last

Saturday, opened the scoring

from the edge of area in the

Red Rum was 30, an exceptional age for a horse. His racing career began in the mid-1960s, and included a success in a Flat race in the hands of Lester Piggott. But it was when he passed into the care of Ginger McCain, a Southport car-salesman, that his progress towards stardom

McCain exercised Red Rum on the beach behind his showroom. In 1973 he won the National for the first time, beating Crisp in one of the most dramatic finishes seen at Aintree. He won again in 1974, finished second in 1975 and 1976, and completed his hat-trick the following year.

In Red Rum's time, the National course was more demanding than it is today. The public recognised his achieve-ment, and Red Rum's popularity endured long after his racing days were over. He was in constant demand to open supermarkets and bet-

"He's always been brilliant with people," said Phil Harri-son, his stable-lad in recent years. "As far as I know, he's never bitten or kicked any-

McCain said: "He was a tremendous old competitor, but much more than that. He'd switched on the Blackpool lights and was chieftainof-honour at the Highland Games. He was a very remarkable horse, seriously magical." A memorial will be erected over Red Rum's grave in time for the next Grand National — The Inde-

Stich injured in Vienna tournament turn Saturday to Munich, Germany, to see well-known

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Germany's Michael Stich suffered a possible seasonending ligament tear Friday when he took a hard spill, in second-round play at the CA

Trophy Tennis Tournament. Stich, currently 12th in the world ATP rankings, was scrambling forward and to the left after a drop shot by Australia's Todd Woodbridge when he sharply twisted his left ankle and rolled over.

He was carried from the court on a stretcher with his ankle iced and taped.

"It's at least one torn liga-ment," Dr. Edi Lanz told the Austria Press Agency, Such injuries can take six weeks or more to heal. Stich's wife, Jessica, fainted as he was wheeled into the players

Stich, 27, reportedly de-clined to go to a Vienna hospital and planned to re-

LYON, France (AP) - Top-

seeded Pete Sampras moved

a step closer to his fourth

Lyon Open title by beating

French qualifier Maxime Huard, 6-4, 6-2, in the quar-

Sampras has averaged less

than an hour for his first

three matches and has yet to

lose a set. He gained his 11th

semifinal of the season in 14

Huard, 19, was ranked

361st before the tournament

and was in awe of meeting

Sampras. "I looked at him in

the lockerroom, then in

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terfinals Friday.

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Sampras reaches

semifinals

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Woodbridge was serving with the score at 2-2 in the first set when Stich fell, forcing him to forfeit the match. He was seeded third in the \$500,000 tournament.

"I had already reached the ball, wanted to quickly change direction and trip-ped," Stich said. "It hit me like lightening.

The German has been trying to qualify for the year-end ATP World Championships, which he won in 1993. Only the top eight in the rankings are eligible for the November tournament.

The spill ended a disappointing season for the former Wimbledon champion whose best showing in the Grand Slam tournament was the 2nd round of the French

warmups and then during the

start of the match," Huard

said. "It was hard for me to

Sampras will meet fifth-

seeded American, Todd Mar-

tin, next. Martin defeated

Patrick Rafter of Australia,

semifinals at Memphis in

In other quarterfinals, fourth seeded Wayne Fer-

reira topped David Prinosil

of Germany, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3 and second seeded Yevgeny

Kafelnikov of Russia.

Martin beat Sampras in the

realise it was for real."

4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2.

February.

bridge and top seed Thomas Muster of Austria who was preparing for his match against Alexander Volkov of Russia when stich fell.

It also unsettled Wood-

"My heart nearly stop-ped." Woodbridge said. "You go into the next match with a bad feeling." said Muster who went on to defeat Volkov 7-6 (7-4), 6-1.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH 1994 Tribune Media Services, II WHAT'S THE ODDS?

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North-South vulnerable. South

0109858 +QJ 10 84 SOUTH +A9732 *AK842 VAKJ 08743

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
14 2NT 44 54
Page 54 Page
Page Page

Opening lead: Queen of 4 It was one of those strange

hands. As the Senior Kibitzer observed at the conclusion of the play: "If the finesse was going to work, there was no need to take it!" West two no trump was unusual, howing the minor suits. East took advantage of the vulnerability to sacrifice in five clubs, but North

Weat led the queen of clubs against five spades, and declarer was delighted with the contract. The hand depended only on a successful finesse in one of the red suits, and the auction suggested that both would work.

Declarer took care to cover the queen of clubs with the king — no need to face a diamond shift at trick two. This proved to be critical. East won the ace and shifted to the ten of hearts, taken by the king in the closed hand. Declarer crossed to the queen of trumps, in the process drawing both missing langs, and ruffed a club. South was about to embark on

finessing expedition but suddenly applied the brakes. The light had dawned — the heart finesse was unnecessary. Since West had at least 10 cards in the minors, the defender could not hold more than delender could not hold more than two hearts. There was a safety play available. Declarer continued by cashing the see of hearts. When the queen dropped, all was well. But had the lady not appeared, declarer

would have continued with a heart.
East would win the trick with the
queen of hearts, but would then be
endplayed. A diamond would be advantage of the vulnerability to enuplayed. A gramond would be sacrifice in five clubs, but North was not selling out. Fortunately, other euit would allow declarer to ruff in hand while discarding the North's bravado.

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With Davis Cup final looming, U.S. captain thinks of ailing brother

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, players, fans, media people, everybody really does care, son is playing in a senior tournament this weekend and already plotting his strategy for the Davis Cup final be-tween the United States and

But this twin brother is never far from his thoughts. "It's tough for me to see Tim go through what he's going through," said Gullik-son, whose brother collapsed at the Australian Open in January and now is being treated for brain cancer. "Obviously, I try to help him as much as I can. I talk to him on the phone a lot. I go see him. I just try to be as supportive as I can."

Tom Gullikson; captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team, was in Ponte Vedra for the ATP Tour classic, the final event of the year on the senior tour. After his first match Thursday night, he re-treated to the locker room, where players and reporters anickly turned the subject to his brother's fight against

"He's hanging in there,"
Tom said. "He's going to
start a new treatment programme Monday. He's going to do some radiation, and he feels good about it. He likes his doctor and he's feeling pretty positive that it's going to go well."

The Gulliksons, who are

44, teamed up- to win 10 doubles titles on the regular tour, making them the most successful brother tandem in Tennis history. More important, they've always had that special bond only twins can comprehend, an intuition about each other's fears and

"We've always been really close," Tom said, his voice trailing off. "It's really tough because you always wish you could do more to help out, but there's only so much you can do in the end."

With Tim gripped in a lifeor-death struggle, Tom has become his link to the public. After his match Thursday night, Tom chatted in the locker room with players who wanted to know how his

brother was faring.
"I've talked with a lot of people, a lot of well-meaning people," Tom said. "Other

everybody really does care, which is terrific. But it is hard to talk about."

Tim, who has coached some of tennis' biggest stars, showed up at the Davis Cup semifinals last month in Las Vegas. It was his first public appearance since being diagnosed with brain cancer earlier this year. After the Americans clinched a victory over Sweden, he even got to 'sit on the bench for a few games during match involving his star pupil, Pete Sam-

"He had a great time,"
Tom said of his brother's outing. "Pete really enjoyed baving him there, and obviously it made it more special for me with him being

While Tim is at the forefront of his thoughts, Tom also is looking ahead to the Davis Cup final Dec. 1-3 in Moscow. The United States, which already has commitments from Sampras, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier and Todd Martin, will be favoured to win its first cup since 1992, even though Russia has the home-court advantage.

"I think most players feel as have the best players in the world," Gullikson said, not-ing that four of the top seven players in the ATP Tour ranking sare Americans. "If we do, we can prove it by bringing back the cup. The only way to prove it is to win the team event."

The Russians shocked Germany in the semifinals playing on red clay in Moscow, the same slow surface that will be used for the finals. Gullikson isn't concerned, however, noting that Agassi and Courier have been successful on clay at the French

And as for the raucous, nationalistic crowd sure to be awaiting the Americans on the other side of the Atlantic, the U.S. captain feels he has put together a team capable of handling the pressure.

"All of these guys have been through a lot, being in Grand Slam finals, winning grand slam finals, being in Davis Cup pressure situa-tions," Gullikson said. "I think we'll handle it well."



Stoichkov says Parma need more character

ROME (R) — European player of the year Hristo Stoichkov lashed out at his Italian club Parma on Saturday, saying they lacked character in losing 3-0 to Sweden's Halmstad in a Cup Winners' Cup tie on Thurs-

We have returned to the same old problems: against small sides Parma play at 50 per cent," the Bulgarian striker told Il Giornale news-

When these small clubs play against Parma, they give it all they have got. And that's what happened. We were not able to bounce back

even though we had the time," he added. "It is a question of mental-

ity, of character." The first-leg defeat in Gothenburg was the third time this season that the 1993 Cup Winners' Cup victors and 1994 finalists had lost 3-0

to a more lowly side. The UEFA Cup holders crashed out of the Italian Cup last month against second division Palermo, then were thrashed in the league by Genoa's Sampdoria.

Parma are currently lying second in Serie A and face Roma in the capital on Sun-



Fernandez, Maleeva advance to semifinals

nutes before overcoming the

resilient Paulus 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

from the beginning," Fernan-dez said. "She played very

well. She's very solid and has

a great two-handed back-

nd, and it was difficult to

The match included 15 ser-

vice breaks as both players

"It was a struggle right

BRIGHTON, England (AP) Fourth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez defeated Austrian Barbara Paulus in a three-set quarterfinal Friday to reach the semifinals of the Brighton International Championship. In the three other quarter-

final matches, No. 3 seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria defeated No. 6 Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic 1-6, 6,1, 6-3; Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands defeated Marjaan de Swardt л Аппса о-1, 1-0, о-No. 7 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa defeated Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

to battle for 2 hours 22 mi-

scores,

keeps

Bayern

Munich in

the clear

BONN (AFP) — Jorgen Klinsmann brought

Bayern Munich their

eighth win of the season

on Saturday, scoring the only goal of the game against Sankt Pauli to

keep Bayern three

points clear at the top.

Klinsmann, who scored both goals in

their 2-0 UEFA Cup win

over Raith Rovers in

midweek, struck in the

10th minute against the newly-promoted club.

The gap with Borussia

Dortmund stays at three

points as the reigning

champions trounced FC Cologne 3-0 at home.

with Jorgen Kobler,

Michael Zorc and Heiko

Herrlich all scoring in

The two leading clubs,

both doing well in

Europe, currently dominate the Bondesliga

- Dortmund are five

Third placed Hansa

Rostock drew 1-1 with

Verdingen on Friday,

while VFB Stuttgart

beat Eintracht Frankfurt

3-2 thanks to a late win-

ner from Fredi Bobic.

The third of the trio,

Borussia Moenchenglad-

bach, play Werder Bre-

men on Sunday.

points clear of a trio of

clubs on 16 points.

the last half hour.

failed to assert their author-**FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT** Brand new, spacious 335 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, centrally air-conditioned, with telephone. Two bedrooms, neat, quiet area.

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in the opening set, but be-

came more aggressive and in

the final set and placed

I was more aggressive off those high balls and waited

for the right ones to come in

on," Fernandez said. "Men-

tally I stayed tough and hung

in there, and that's good sign.

It was a good win for me.'

Paulus under pressure.

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Gaudenzi reaches final

HONG KONG (AP) — Italian Andrea Gaudenzi upset to-seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 Friday to advance to semifinals of the \$760,000 (U.S.) Marlboro Tennis Championships.

Gaudenzi, ranked 19th on the ATP Tour, looked to be on his way out after the eighth-ranked Ivanisevic overpowered him in the first

But the Croatian's game collapsed in the second set as Guadenzi broke him at will to win the silver group that in-cluded Frenchman Henri

Gaudenzi met Australian Mark Philippoussis in the

semifinals on Saturday, Philippoussis, who won the red group after beating American Richey Reneberg 6-1, 6-4 on Thursday, retired two games into the match with a back

"I think I play alright, but it was a very relaxed match." said Gaudenzi, who along his friend Ivanisevic shaved their heads on Wednesday as part of a secret bet. He now will play Sweden's Stefan Edberg in the final.

The other semifinal match

will be between Spain's twotime French Open champion Sergi Bruguera and defending champion Stefan Edberg

Bruguera defeated American Pat McEnroe 7-5, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4 Friday after a protracted baseline battle to win the blue group that included Dutchman Jacco Eltingh. "It will be tough to win the

tournament, but as long as I am still in it, I have as good a chance as anyone," Bruguera

Edberg won the gold group on Thursday after beating Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-3.

The 12 players in the tournament were divided in to four groups of three, with the winner of each pool advancing into the semininals.



Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi is pictured in action against Australia's Mark Philippoussis in their semi-final event at the

Hong Kong tennis championships (Reu-

Korean expedition succeeds after changing route

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)
— South Korean Himalayan expeditions, which were successful in putting four of its members atop Mt. Everest, had to change plans and choose a less difficult route to achieve the feat, an expedition leader said Friday.

Three Korean expeditions tried to reach the \$,848-metre high summit from the northeast ridge on the Tibetan side

of the peak, but failed. They later came back to base camp and began a fresh assault along the North Col route, which has a long pass that provides climbers relief from freezing high winds. Six climbers, two Koreans

and four Sherpa mountain guides, were hit by an avalanche at 7,000 metres on the northeast ridge, forcing a change of plans.
"One Sherpa called Ihak-

pa Norbu died but all the others escaped with minor injuries when the avalanche hit us on Sept. 10," said Park Yound-Seok, a 32-year-old climber from Seoul, who led the Korean Qomolangma expedition. Qomolangma is the Tibetan word for Everest. "After this serious acci-

dent, we decided to change the route," Park said. But despite choosing an easier route, there was one more fatality. "A guide named Jambu Sherpa fell down when coming back from the summit," Park told the Associated Press in an interview. He and other climbers were in Katmandu on their way back home from Ihasa, the Tibetan capital.

Jordan Times Tel. 699634

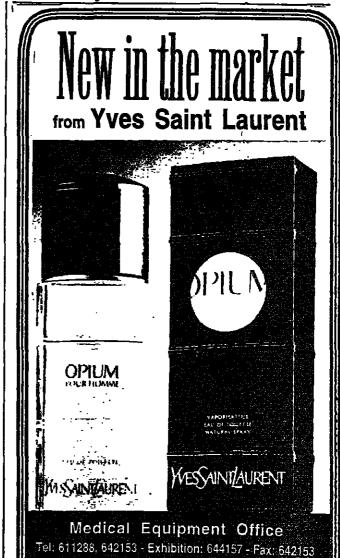
Two members from Park's expedition — Hong Sung-Tack, 29, of Seoul, and Han Wuang-Yong, 29, from Chonju — reached the sum-

mit on Oct. 14. The same day, a member of the Korea University expedition — 27-year-old Cho Yong-Il scaled the peak along

with his Sherpa guide.

They took nearly 11 hours for the final assault from the Camp-V, at the altitude of 8,350 metres, Park said. The four were the only

successful climbers among nine expeditions from different countries that tried to scale the world's highest peak from the Tibetan side this



Rockets kill 11 in Kabul

KABUL (R) — A rocket attack on Kabul killed 11 people and wounded 30 on Saturday as U.N. special envov Manmoud Mestiri arrived to try to negotiate a ceasefire to save the Afghan capital from a battle, witnes-

Three rockets landed about 11 a.m., one of them in a busy market street and two at a hospital, witnesses said.

At least eight people were killed and 30 wounded by one rocket that landed at Juwshir Market Street, which connects Kabul's central district with southwestern suburbs. Three more people died later in hospital.

"The street was packed with shoppers and traders at the time of attack," one witness said. He said there was no advance warning.

The other two rockets hit Naiwand Hospital, 300 metres from the market street, wounding one person. One hit the paediatric ward, which doctors said had been vacated earlier for repairs. The second hit a classroom of medical students, who had left it minutes earlier for re-

Doctors said they expected the death toll to rise because of the serious condition of several of the wounded.

Mr. Mestiri arrived to meet President Burhanuddin Rabbani, hoping to negotiate a ceasefire that could prevent a battle, while opposition Taliban militia wait on the city's southern fringes ready to launch a full-scale attack.

The Talibans, who emerged from obscurity in 1994, have reinforced their positions in the Rishkor and Khairabad hills overlooking the southern suburbs while

civilians to leave the city before the attack begins.

The rival factions have fought one another for control of the country ever since they overthrew the former communist government in early 1992 after 14 years of war against a Soviet-backed Kabul gas accused Pakistan

of backing the Islamic student-led militia. Islamabad denies the charge. Mr. Mestiri, who plans to

return to Islamabad after a day in Kabul, said he was due to meet Mr. Rabbani later but declined to give details of

His latest visit to the warbattered capital is the first since the Talibans closed in on the city 10 days ago.

The Talibans have been building forces since then and holding talks with anti-Rabbani groups to organise a coordinated offensive on

Kabul from every direction. The last time Mr. Mestiri visited Kabul, he said his main objective was to avoid such an attack and arrange a short-term ceasefire to give rival leaders a chance to discuss a negotiated settlement

to the 42-month-old civil war. Many Western observers in Kabul believe military pressure is close to a breaking point and a decisive battle is not far away.

"I can't see how Mestiri can succeed," one Western resident said. "He is just bashing his head against all the rival tanks.

"It would be nice if he could get them to pack up their guns and go home but there is just too much at stake here for all of them to walk away now.

Gamaa claims Croatia bomb, threatens more

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's largest militant group on Saturday claimed responsibility for a bomb in Croatia on Eriday and vowed to wase war-on Croatia unless it released the group's spokes-

Gamaa Al Islamiyah (the Islamic Group) claimed responsibility in a statement faxed to an international news agency for a bomb in the Croatian port of Rijeka on Friday which killed one

person and injured 29. The group, which narrowly failed to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June, said it detonated the bomb to pressure Croatian authorities into releasing Talaat Fouad Qassem, their spokesman whose whereabouts were last known when Croatian police detained him

"Your interests will be a target for us until you release Sheikh Talaat Fouad Qassem and officially apologise in your media for what happened. Close the door of hell the situation you are in is bad enough," the statement

last month.

"O Croats, you are de-ceived if you think this will pass peacefully. The blood is boiling in the veins of the sons of the Gamaa... who will not be at peace unless Sheikh Qassem is released as soon as possible or you will enter into a war the length of which God only knows," it added. Sheikh Qassem, a political refugee in Denmark, was on his way to Bosnia to do re-

search for a book when Croa-

tian police detained him in Zagreb on Sept. 12. He has not been heard of since. The Croatian government said he left the country som time between Sept. 14 and 18 after he was found guilty of

breaking the regulations for

being in the country. Friday's bomb, in a part of Croatia far from the fighting in former Yugoslavia, went off seconds after an Italianregistered car had forced its way into police headquarters

in Rijeka. Croatian police had said they suspected drug crime with Italian connections or Serbs might have been in-

"The military wing of the Gamaa Al Islamiyah announces it carried out its first operation against Croatian interests yesterday," the

statement said. "We tried all political and peaceful means to help Croatia return to its senses but it insisted on challenging the feelings of Muslims and acting with stupidity," the

Bahrain's opposition calls for hunger-strike

MANAMA (AP) — A leading Shiite preacher recently freed from detention has called on supporters to go on a hunger-strike to demand democratic reform and the release from detention of hundreds arrested in anti-

government riots. Sheikh Abdul Ameer Al Jamri said Saturday he and five other Shiite clerics would begin a hunger strike Monday and would end it only when more than 500 detainees were freed.

He told the Associated Press he had made the call during a meeting Friday at a mosque some 15 kilometres

southwest of Manama. Hundreds of his supporters had promised to join, he said. "The government has not done what it had promised, which was the release of the detainees by Sept. 30. The deadline has passed already,' Sheikh Jamri, 55, said.

He said his group --- which he simply called "the opposition" - also wanted the goverament to reinstate a parliament it disbanded 20 years ago and of which he was a member.

Since last August, the government has released hundreds of prisoners in small batches in an effort towards reconciliation following the riots which began last De-cember. Sheikh Jamri himself said 800 of nearly 1,400 detainees had been freed so far.

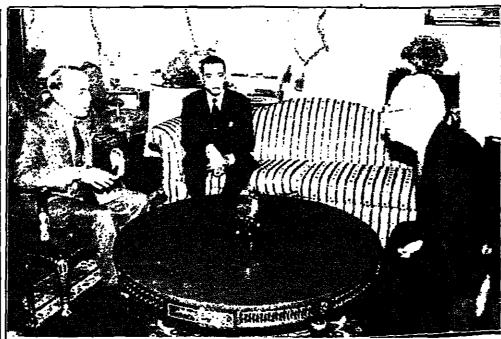
But his call for a hungerstrike sets the stage for a possible clash with the government and comes after Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa said in remarks published Friday that "acts of sabotage and violence" would not be toler-

Authorities in Bahrain, where some 55 per cent of the 500,000 indigenous population are Shiite Muslims, have been trying to restore calm after the rioting over high unemployment and the government's refusal to reinstate

the parliament. Smaller and sporadic protests continue, security sources say.

The government blames. the riots on "outsiders," a reference to overwhelmingly Shiite Iran, which denies in-

volvement.



MOROCCAN-ISRAELI TALKS: Morocco's King Hassan II (left) confers with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at a Manhattan hotel on Friday in a meeting attended by Moroccan Crown Prince Sidi Mohammad (centre). King Hassan II and Mr. Rabin are in New York to attend the U.N.'s 50th anniversary celebrations (see story on page one) (AFP photo)

NATO seeks Claes successor

BRUSSELS (R) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members on Saturday began assessing possible successors to Willy Claes who resigned as the alliance's secretary-general on Friday, accusing Belgian politicians and journalists of political

A shortlist of candidates was being studied in 16 capitals in the wake of a shower of praise for Mr. Claes, who oversaw the biggest combat mission ever launched by NATO during his year at the helm of the world's largest military organisation.

The members are keen to have a replacement in place as quickly as possible as the alliance prepares to establish a force of up to 60,000 troops to police a Bosnian peace accord.

There are only two real contenders.

Former Danish Foreign Minister Uefe Ellemann-Jensen threw his hat in the ring even before Mr. Claes, a 56-year-old former foreign minister, had finished his farewell news conference.

The other was former Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, who may face objections from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, known to be unhappy about his opposition to German unification.

Mr. Claes stepped down after Belgium's parliament voted on Thursday to send him before the country's highest court. "I have decided with great

regret to resign," Mr. Claes told the news conference. "No one can deny that I no longer have enough credibility to ensure the leadership of this great alliance."

Crying political murder, Mr. Claes attacked parlia-ment and the media for indicting him before an investigation into his possible role in a 1988-89 corruption scandal was completed.

Belgian newspapers ac-cused Mr. Claes of bluntness and arrogance, saying he used the news conference at the Western alliance's Brussels headquarters for a vitriolic attack on the Belgian media, legislators and judici-

and was soaked in bitter re-proaches." the respected Dutch-language De Standaard said. "Claes trips up our coun-

"This farewell lacked style

try," said the populist Het Laatste Nieuws, adding the 56-year-old bureaucrat had snarled at Belgium in the news conference.

It portrayed a fingerwagging Claes in vintage style, his glasses perched halfway down his nose.

In an angry statement. Mr. Claes reiterated his innocence in the bribery-forcontracts scandal that has dogged him since he became secretary-general on Oct. 17,

The allegations against Mr. Claes relate to payments allegedly made by two defence firms in the late 1980s to win his political party's backing for major contracts.

Mr. Claes, economic' affairs minister at the time, is alleged to have known of the payments and to have done nothing about them.

Western leaders who sang his praises did nothing to dispel the impression he had been all but forced out to spare the organisation's blushes as it faces a testing time in former Yugoslavia and in trying to build constructive ties with Russia.

The United States, linchpin of NATO and one of the former Belgian minister's strongest defenders during his year in office, said he provided "great leadership" and would be missed.

Leaders, including U.S. President Bill Clinton, highlighted Mr. Claes's strong and effective advocacy of a robust military role for NATO in Bosnia. A bombing campaign by NATO was followed by the present ceasefire and peace moves.

Zeroual favourite in elections – poll

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's army-backed president, General Liamine Zeroual, is a firm favourite to win the country's presidential elections next month, according to a poll published on Satur-

day.

The election is being boycotted by the main legal parties but the opinion poll also suggested that 64 per cent of the violence-racked country's 12 million voters planned to cast their ballots.

"Contrary to all expectations, 64 per cent of those persons polled displayed their intention to go to vote against 23.2 per cent of negative opinions while 12.8 others said they were undecided," Al Watan analyst Redouane Lezhar wrote in a front-page article.

The authorities see the presidential election, due on Nov. 16, as a way of bringing Algeria out of nearly four years of violence, pitting Muslim fundamentalists

PARIS (R) - France, react-

ing to a string of bombing attacks claimed by Algerian

extremists, has again asked Germany and the United

States to muzzle Algerian

militants operating on their soil, the senate said on Fri-

The parliament's upper

chamber said in a statement

that Foreign Minister Herve

de Charette discussed the

matter with the its foreign

He "indicated that France

has made appropriate di-

plomatic representations,

notably to the United States

and the Federal Republic of

Germany, two countries in

which key leaders of Algerian

Islamic movements carry out

political activities without

Asked for details, a foreign

ministry spokesman declined

all comment, saying the com-

mittee's proceedings were

secret. A spokesman for the senate declined to give addi-tional details of Mr. De

Charette's closed-door testi-

Seven people have been

killed and about 170 wound-

ed in eight bombing attacks

mony on Thursday.

affairs committee.

restraint," it said.

against security forces. The figures, published by the respected independent newspaper Al Watan, said 35.8 per cent of Algerian voters wanted Mr. Zeroual to be returned as president for a

five-year term. Mr. Zeroual was appointed as head of state in January 1994 by the military-backed High Security Council.

The poil gave the following backing to the three other contenders for the presiden-

Moderate Muslem fundamentalist leader Mahfoud Nahnah — 13.9 per cent. Anti-Islamist hawk politician Said Saadi - 10.4 per:

Moderate Islamist intellectuel Noureddine Boukroum

 1.9 per cent. The opinion poll, an unsual occurrence in a country where scientific sampling is rare, was taken before the four candidates emerged

from more than 30 would-be

Paris seeks help from U.S, Germany

since July and France fears a

war between the Algerian au-

thorities and guerrillas is spreading to its territory —

home to an estimated four to

five million Muslims, about

half of whom are of Algerian

origin.
The Armed Islamic Group

(GIA), a shadowy militant

Islamic group trying to over-throw Algeria's military-

backed government, has

claimed responsibility for the

bombings and wants France to withdraw support from the current authorities.

About 35,000 Algerians

have died in civil strife since

Algeria's military rulers in-

tervened in 1992 to scrap a

general election that Islamic

fundamentalists were set to

Paris particularly wants to

silence Rabah Kebir, presi-

dent of the Islamic Salvation

Front (FIS) leadership in ex-

ile, who lives in Germany,

and Anwar Haddam, a leader

of FIS parliamentarians, who

lives in the United States.

Both make periodic political

German authorities say the

23,000 Algerians living in

Germany include 30 to 50 FIS

statements.

contenders. They were the only four to collect the necessary 75,000 signatures to support their bid.

One of those to fail, former Prime Minster Redha Malek. was the preferred candidate of 4.6 per cent of would-be voters, according to the opinion poll.

Others of the 64 per cent who said they planned to vote said they had not made up their minds who to vote for.

Al Watan said the poll was conducted between Sept. 20 and Oct. 15.

Algeria's main legal parties are boycotting the poll, while the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which took a huge lead in the first round of the last general election, is now out-

The general election was cancelled in January 1992, and violence erupted shortly afterwards.

An estimated 35,000 people have since been killed.

members and 200 or so sym-

They said on Thursday they had arrested two sons of

Algerian fundamentalist

opposition leader Abassi

Madani as suspects in smug-gling arms to anti-

government forces in Alger-

Salim and Ikbal Madani

were among nine Algerians being investigated on suspi-

cion of smuggling weapons,

Bonn, Washington and

London angrily rejected

French accusations last year

they were too tolerant of

politically active Algerian

fundamentalists living in exile

Then Interior Minister

Charles Pasqua disclosed in August 1994 that he had com-

plained to France's close

allies about FIS activities on

It was the hardliner Pas-

qua, now a member of the

senate, who raised the ques-

tion of the exiles' current

activities with Mr. De

Charette on Thursday,

according to the senate state-

pathisers.

they said.

in the West.

their soil.

Kuwait rebuffs allies over Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is under sanctions rules by sell-tacitly dismissing calls by two ing limited amounts of oil for Gulf Arab allies for reconciliation with former occupier Iraq but wants to avoid a divisive, public row that could alienate important regional friends, diplomats said

on Saturday. "I think they (Kuwaiti officials) were extremely cross, one diplomat said. "But they thought it would be counterproductive to let the anger they feel come through undiluted into the public do-

The reaction has been deliberately kept low key," another diplomat said. "They do not want to get into a polemic with other GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)

No Kuwait official has so far reacted on the record to calls by Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last week for lifting economic sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 to try to ease the suffering of fellow Arabs in Iraq.
Diplomats said Kuwait

wanted to avoid setting off a damaging argument in the 14-year-old GCC economic and military alliance of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Oatar, Bahrain and Oman. Since its 1991 liberation

Kuwait has worked hard with close ally Saudi Arabia to shore up support from all GCC members for the continuance of sanctions against

Any prolonged differences with other GCC states on the issue would be a blow to Kuwaiti efforts to block what it sees as a continuing threat from an unrepentant northern neighbour. Kuwait's only reaction

came in a mildy-worded state radio commentary on Thursday that reiterated the official position that Iraq is responsi-ble for its own people's suf-

It said Iraq could solve it

ing limited amounts of oil for

himanitarian purposes. "The injury caused by Iraq is still bleeding (and) cannot be forgotten," it said. It added lifting of U.N. sanctions before Iraqi complies with ceasefire terms would reward Baghdad for invading its neighbours and oppressing

its own people. Under sanctions rules Iraq may not resume normal oil sales until the U.N. is satisfied that it has dismantled all its weapons of mass destruction. It has rejected selling limited amounts as this, it says, would infringe on its

sovereignty.

Kuwait and the United States want the oil ban to stay until Baghdad has accounted for all Kuwaitis who went missing during the occupation and returned all property stolen in 1990-91.

The commentary also implicitly rejected the UAE's call for reconciliation between Kuwait and "pro-Iraq" Arab states.

The radio stopped short of naming any state but noted some say let bygones be bygones and call for Arab reconciliation and solidarity," despite evidence of what it called Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's expansionist and aggressive intentions.

One Western diplomat said Kuwait and Saudi Arabia regarded any call from fellow Gulf Arabs for reconciliation with Iraq as naive, since Iraq had yet to satisfy U.N. disarmament conditions and in view of its track record.

Kuwait oppositio. col-umnist Abdul Latif Al Ouaij wrote in Al Qabas daily: "The Iraqi regime will not hestiate to build on its expansionist ambitions and use its army for that purpose, irrespective as to whether the victims of such schemes are Irag, Kuwait - or, for that matter, the UAE."

Barzan Tikriti fetes Saddam on his vote

BAGHDAD (R) - Barazan working for the defence of Al Tikriti, half-brother to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, but to rest rumours he had defected with a message stage, according to the meson Saturday congratulating sage.

The referendum proves tory in this week's referen-

An opposition radio station based in rebel-held Iraqi Kurdistan bad said Mr. Barazan, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, refused to come back to Baghdad after President Saddam's two sons-in-law defected to Jordan in August.

But Mr. Barazan's message pledged continued support for President Saddam as leader and endorsed the result of the referendum. Over 99 per cent of the voters in the referendum on Sunday said they favoured giving President Saddam seven years as

president. "Barazan Al Tikriti pledged... to join the people on this day, saying 'yes' to Saddam Hussein as president of the republic," the official Iraqi News Agency (INA)

Mr. Barazan said he was right behind the Iraqi leadership and was committed to

the country's interests to restore it to its rightful place on the Arab and international

categorically that the Iraqi people have chosen, with complete freedom, to support their president, Saddam Hussein, known for his unfailing struggle to defend the independence and sovereignty of Iraq," the message con-

nved. INA said Mr. Barazan felt the referendum had given the people a democratic process for the first time in 35 years.

"We are full of confidence and faith that you will lead our steadfast people to the shore of safety, happiness and peace," said the message, quoted by the agency. The opposition radio station, the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, had said Mr. Barazan, a presidential adviser and former head of Iraqi

intelligence, posed a threat to President Saddam. It said President Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay had confiscated all Barazan's possessions in Iraq two months

Egyptian court declines to rule on new press law.

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt's troduced in the new law. constitutional court refused Saturday to rule on the validity of a new press law which has provoked vehement protests from journalists who say it suppresses freedom of ex-pression, legal sources said. The court, which usually

only rules on appeals from earlier cases, decided it was its "duty to judge on laws which have actually been im-plemented, so in this case there is no need for a ruling on it," the sources said. President Hosni Mubarak had asked the constitutional

court to review the law as a

compromise to journalists, who had threatened a general strike to protest. No one has yet been tried under the law, which was passed in May. But a first court case is to begin on Nov. 12 against Magdi Hussein, the editor-in-chief of an Isla-

mic newspaper, his paper said Saturday. Mr. Hussein, who heads Al Shaab newspaper, is charged with insulting the son of the interior minister and could face up to a maximum of 15 years in prison under harsh penalties for defamation in-

He told AFP before the latest ruling that if the court refused to judge the law, he would use his trial as a test case by asking that it be put before the constitutional tri-

In the wake of the court

decision, Yahya Kalash, a

member of the journalist union's directing council, told AFP: "We were expecting the court not to rule, so our hopes were not pinned on it."

But he said the council would hold an emergency meeting to address the trial of Mr. Hussein later on Saturday and would most likely call for an urgent session of

the union's general assembly.

'The general assembly could decide to respond with a strike," Mr. Kalash said. Mr. Hussein accused the government of using the new law to "strike at the Islamic

movement.' This is a campaign against freedom of opinion and expression which focuses on the Islamic movement but for which all the opposition will pay the price," Mr. Hussein

Yeltsin shocks secretary as

cameras roll

MOSCOW (AP) - As television cameras rolled, President Boris Yeltsin greeted two secretaries with a tap - or was it a tweak? - on their backs. startling one of them. The gesture was followed by a bello." The incident occurred Thursday as Mr. Yeltsin entered an ornate Kremlin hall to meet with Russian and American journalists. The women apparently stenographers — were sitting at a table and the president walked behind them. When Mr. Yeltsin tapped them as he passed, the first sat bolt upright, spun around and saw it was the president. The second showed little reaction. The president's office said it had no com-

Diana backs mother's decision to become a Catholic

(AP) — LONDON Princess Diana supports her mother's decision to become a Roman Catholic. Frances Shand Kydd, who was raised in the Anglican Church, said none of her family was surprised by her decision and all four of her children were 'really happy' for her. "One of them said: 'Oh mom - tell. the world you have my total support," she said. refusing to say who it was. In an interview on Scottish Television released Friday, she said she decided to convert after attending services for six years at the Catholic Cathedral in Oban, near her Scottish home, "I was excited. happy, and very peaceful inside - I had no doubts," she said. "It was like com-" Mrs. Shano ig nome. Kydd said she was "proud to bits" of Diana and admired how she coped with so many different issues.

Ex-wife wins Nobel Prize of her own

CHICAGO (R) - The exwife of this year's winner of the Nobel Prize for economics has won a prize of her own - half of his \$1 million winnings. When Lucas and his former wife, Rita, divorced in 1989 she had a provision placed in the couple's property settlement guaranteeing her half of his winnings should he receive a Nobel Prize before Oct. 31, 1995. "A deal's a deal," Robert Lucas of the University of Chicago told the Chicago Tribune in a report published Friday. Mr. Lucas who won the prize on Oct. 10 for theories showing how consumer experience rather than government intervention shapes national economies - had been rumoured as a likely Nobel Prize candidate for some years. "It was her idea," the 58-year-old Lucas told the newspaper. "Maybe if I'd known I'd win I would have resisted the clause."

Hong Kong thieves bore into store, swipe lewels

HONG KONG (R) -Thieves bored into a jewellery store in the Mong Kok area of Hong Kong from an empty shop next door and made off with Hong Kong dollars 20 million (\$2.6 million) worth of loot, police said Saturday. Using a powerful drill, the robbers bored through a ! 4 floor of the vacant site to a basement below and then through a wall adjoining the store early Friday morning. The stolen items included diamonds, gold,

gold jewellery and cash.